



WORLD / A21

**China growth**  
exacting too high a  
toll, says president

BUSINESS / B1

**OFW remittances**  
jumped 10.6%  
in August

ENTERTAINMENT / E1

**Dollywood:**  
Aga Muhlach's  
newfound passion

LIFESTYLE / D4

**Lifestyle approach**  
to weight loss



**Fearful faces get noticed**  
first before smiling ones



CHICAGO—SMILES may take a while, but a horrified expression is a sure-fire attention getter, according to US researchers who studied how fast people process facial expressions.

FEARFUL/A10

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

★★

7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 310 P18

website: www.inquirer.net

**Bishop warns ex-priest**  
on accepting Palace cash

By Beverly T. Natividad

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR V. CRUZ HAS TAKEN to task priest-turned-politician Eddie Panlilio for accepting P500,000 handed out to provincial governors who attended Thursday's gathering in Malacañang.

Governor Panlilio of Pampanga, who is on leave from his priestly duties, has ac-

BISHOP/A16

# Panlilio to Palace: Tell truth on money



GOVERNOR Panlilio shows media the P500,000 he said was given to him after a Thursday meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

**More officials**  
admit getting  
P500,000

By Tonette Orejas  
Inquirer Central Luzon

DECLARING NO ONE COULD suppress the truth, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio yesterday showed on television the bundle of P500,000 he said he received in Malacañang, triggering similar admissions from another governor and a congresswoman.

Their decision to go public about the monetary handouts that Malacañang had tried to downplay prompted calls in the Senate for an investigation to find out who was behind the handouts and if President Macapagal-Arroyo was involved. (See related story on this page.)

"It's very crucial that Malacañang should confirm which particular office the funds came from," Panlilio said during a press conference in the City of San Fernando.

He said if subpoenaed by the Senate, he would appear and tell the truth.

Bulacan Gov. Joselito "Jonjon" Mendoza and Pangasinan Rep. Rachel Arenas also came out in the open to admit they had received money from Malacañang, amid Palace attempts to douse

PANLILIO/A16

**GMA men**  
won't say  
where cash  
came from

By Michael Lim Ubac

AT LEAST P120 MILLION IN CASH WAS believed to have been given last week to members of the House of Representatives, governors and mayors in Malacañang, but no Palace official has acknowledged where the money came from.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, however, said the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), an umbrella organization of local officials, should do the explaining where the money came from.

"I don't know where the funds came from. That's an Ulap thing. Ulap has its own funds," Puno said.

Puno, who also serves as President Macapagal-Arroyo's political affairs adviser, said Ulap members—governors and mayors—trooped to Malacañang on Thursday to take their oath

GMA MEN/A16

## IN THE KNOW

**Charter requires**  
receipts, vouchers  
in all gov't spending

By Cyril L. Bonabente  
Inquirer Research

THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION (Article IX, Section 3 under the subhead "Commission on Audit") states that no law shall be passed exempting any government entity or any investment of public funds from the jurisdiction of the Commission on Audit (COA).

Even the government's Contingent Fund, which is administered by the Office of the President, is subjected to auditing procedures. To make sure that everything is accounted for,

CHARTER/A16

## Opposition in Senate, House demand inquiry

By Gil Cabacungan  
and Norman Bordadora

AN OPPOSITION SENATOR YESTERDAY formally called for an inquiry into allegations that Malacañang handed out bags filled with cash to congressmen and governors, even as another senator warned that President Macapagal-Arroyo could face bribery charges.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson filed a resolution seeking an investigation that would include other alleged bribery attempts uncovered in the past few weeks.

These were the P200-million bribe supposedly offered by resigned Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos to Committee on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri, and a purported P2-million bribe to Rep. Crispin Beltran and other congressmen offered by

a Kampi executive to support a supposedly "sham" impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

In Senate Resolution No. 172, Lacson said he wanted a closer probe into these alleged payoffs and bribery attempts because public officials had shown "utter disregard" for the constitutional precept that a public office is a public trust.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ms Arroyo would be liable for bribery if the money supposedly distributed to congressmen and provincial governors after meetings at Malacañang on Thursday came from private sources.

She could be liable for malversation if the cash came from public funds, Pimentel said.

In a text message to the INQUIRER, Pimentel said: "She's digging herself a

OPPOSITION/A16

## SPECIAL REPORT

# RP is forward operating base of US

By Herbert Docena

(Second of three parts)

SINCE THE LATE 1990S, A CHORUS of American defense analysts, military officials, civilian leaders, and influential commentators have identified the Philippines as playing a critical role in the US global posture. A succession of studies sponsored for different US military services have also singled out the Philippines for its strategic location.

The Project for the New American Century (PNAC), for example, had proposed that the US Navy establish a

home-port and that the US Air Force station a wing in the Philippines.

Another study for the US Air Force (USAF) noted the Philippines is located firmly within what US strategists have called the "dragon's lair," or those areas of the Western Pacific where China could potentially seek to prevent the United States from deploying.

Another USAF-funded study to develop a "global access strategy" for the USAF proposed renting an island from the Philippines for use as a military base.

A 2006 USAF-funded study evaluat-

ing basing options for storing and prepositioning US war materiel listed the Philippines as among the most desirable sites. Exploring different alternatives, a US Army-sponsored research identified the Philippines as one of the suitable locations for a new unit of the Army.

Although proposals made by military analysts do not necessarily translate into action, it is clear that a consensus has been building that "[A]ccess to Philippine facilities is much more important than most judged 12 years ago."

RP IS FORWARD/A10



## IMMUNIZATION OF ANOTHER KIND

A student of Headstar School in Leveriza, Manila, gets a free anti-measles shot on Monday. The Department of Health's "Knock Out Tigdas" immunization drive coincides with the alleged attempt of lawmakers in Congress to immunize President Macapagal-Arroyo against another impeachment case. (See story on Page 18.)

## Local group taps music in fight against poverty

By Jeannette I. Andrade

IT IS NOT THE TYPE OF MUSIC THAT sticks in your head.

But it is a melody that the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Philippines hopes will sensitize a society that has become insensitive to privation.

In launching the song "Poverty Re-

quiem" locally, GCAP Philippines aims to join the worldwide call tomorrow—the International Day of Hunger and Poverty Eradication or the Whiteband Day—to eliminate destitution through positive action.

"Doing away with poverty is not a matter of charity but self-advocacy,

LOCAL GROUP/A11



## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila Partly Cloudy	Palawan Mostly Cloudy
Baguio Partly Cloudy	Rizal Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao Partly Cloudy	Cebu Mostly Cloudy
Laos Partly Cloudy	Tacloban Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone Partly Cloudy	Manila Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro Mostly Cloudy
Calapan Partly Cloudy	Source: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: SCHAUZ CHOCOLATA, FOR RESEARCH/10/15/07

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# Second FRONT PAGE

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EZ2 FOUR DIGIT

20 6 1 1 8 5

(In exact order)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

2 6 8 9 1 2

MEGALOTTO 6/45

2 8 13 16 17 43

P9,386,544.60

## GMA revives campaign for Cha-cha, federalism

By Michael Lim Ubac and Jerome Aning

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo, facing renewed attempts in the legislature to impeach her, yesterday restarted the controversial campaign for Charter change (Cha-cha).

In a speech in Pasay City at the regional workshop on the

establishment of national human rights institutions across Asia, President Arroyo said she was forming a panel to draft "a road map to federalism by 2012."

### New legislation

The President also stressed that she wanted new "legislation to affirm and expand executive issuances, and eventually Charter changes."

The panel, tasked to draw up regional planning structures, would include the Secretaries of the Interior and Local Government, Justice, Presidential Management Staff, National Economic and Development Authority, leaders of local government units and congressional leaders.

"Maybe even pro-federalism opposition leaders" should join the panel, the President said.

### Immediate fire

Arroyo's announcement drew immediate fire from militant opposition leaders.

Rafael Mariano of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas accused her of trying to divide the country to cover the many corruption issues now plaguing her administration.

The Cha-cha campaign of 2006, which took the form of a people's initiative to change the present bicameral presidential system to a parliamentary one—with an eye toward gradually shifting to federal-

ism—was stopped by the Supreme Court as a "grand deception."

The high court ruled 8-7 that while a signature campaign could be used to amend provisions of the Charter, the proposed overhaul could only be done through a constitutional convention or through Congress acting as a constituent assembly. The latter method was shot down by the Senate.

The Palace had backed the people's initiative campaign led by House Speaker Jose de Venecia and officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap).

### Militants' threat

Reacting to the revival of the Cha-cha campaign, militant groups threatened to mobilize anew for protest demonstrations.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap, representing the fisherfolk, said it was becoming clear why the Palace was recently reported to be giving out bags of money to local officials.

### Ermita surprised

"It is like President Arroyo saying, 'Congressmen, governors and local government officials, now you have your brown envelopes with you, it is time for me to say what I want you to do for me. Let's dance again the Chacha,'" he added.

The President's announcement had taken even Executive

Secretary Eduardo Ermita by surprise.

"This is the first time in many months that I heard the President say that," said Ermita who was with the President.

"When I was listening to her it seemed... that eventually we may move to federalism."

### Confirmed

Ermita confirmed that moves to change the 1987 Constitution have not been abandoned by the Arroyo administration.

Among the proposed Charter changes being pushed by Malacanan are economic provisions lifting restrictions on foreign investments in mining and other natural resource-based industries.

The 1987 Constitution requires 60 percent Filipino ownership of firms engaged in the exploitation of natural resources. This provision, discussed in a recent Senate hearing, would make unconstitutional a new Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) which opens fishing rights, among others, to Japanese companies.

### Controversial

Controversial, too, are the transitory provisions in the Cha-cha draft that would extend the terms of local officials.

Opposition leaders last year said they suspected that Ms Arroyo herself wanted to prolong her term beyond 2010.



### TAKE THE MOOSE OUT

A member of a labor union holds a placard during an indignation rally yesterday at the Department of Labor and Employment in Intramuros, Manila, to condemn the violent dispersal of protesters last Oct. 10. The rallyists also urged new policies against contractualization of workers.

REY ZAMORA

## GSIS waives penalties for nearly P1-B loans

By Jerry E. Esplanada

GOOD NEWS FOR THE COUNTRY'S public school teachers.

They are among the biggest beneficiaries of a nearly P1-billion loan condonation program of the state-run Government Service Insurance System.

The teachers and other Department of Education personnel comprise nearly half of the 1.3 million GSIS members nationwide.

Citing agency records, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said at least P530.2 million of the condoned surcharges came from members' salary loans.

Another P311.4 million and P87 million in surcharges were in the form of emergency and one-month salary loans, Garcia also said.

He said the waiving of loan penalties or surcharges incurred in the past was the main feature of the GSIS's consolidated loan or "conso-loan" program.

As of Oct. 1, at least 447,357 GSIS members had availed of the conso-loan program.

Under the conso-loan, GSIS members can avail of a new loan equivalent to up to 10 months of their basic salary.

To qualify for the conso-loan, a loan applicant has to be an active GSIS member for at least 20 months.

Meanwhile, militant teachers earlier scored the Department of Education for its alleged failure to submit to the GSIS the updated service records of over two-thirds of 500,000 teachers nationwide.

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), said nearly one year after the supposed deadline, "the department has submitted only 154,490 out of 508,361 service records."

### JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF



TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS

LOT 1: KOMATSU D155AX-3 BUILDING SCRAMPER

LOT 2: ARRIEL TRUCKS ART. ROAD TRUCKS

LOT 3: KOMATSU PC400LC-6 EXCAVATOR

LOT 4: SHIMADZU D155-3 EXCAVATOR

LOT 5: KOMATSU WA350-3 EXCAVATOR

LOT 6: KOMATSU WA350-3 EXCAVATOR

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LOT 35: KOMATSU WA350-3 EXCAVATOR

Auction Dates:  
Oct. 24 - 27, 2007  
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

Inspection Dates:  
Oct. 19 - 23, 2007  
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

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LOT 35: KOMATSU WA350-3 EXCAVATOR

### TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

Please be advised that Shoemart, Incorporated (the "Bidder") has filed a Tender Offer Report in SEC Form 19-1 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") and the Philippines Stock Exchange (the "PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with its intention to acquire all of the 3,722,352,913 outstanding common shares (the "Shares") of SM Development Corporation ("SMDC").

The Bidder has commenced a negotiated acquisition of One Billion Eight Hundred Twenty Three Million Eight Hundred Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Five (1,823,841,965) Shares (equivalent to 49.0 %) owned by SM Investments Corporation which shall be acquired at the same price per share of Three Pesos and Ninety Five Centavos (P3.95) per share. The Bidder presently owns 15.7 % of the Shares. Consequently, the subject of this Tender Offer is 1,312,296,345 Shares representing 35.3 % of the Shares.

The offer price for the acquisition of the Shares is Three Pesos and Ninety Five Centavos (P3.95) per share or a total consideration of P 5,163,570,563 and will be payable on Settlement Date.

The Bidder shall acquire any Shares that may be tendered by any stockholder of SMDC in response to the Tender Offer. The Tender Offer shall commence on October 16, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. and shall end on November 16, 2007 at 12:00 noon (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Bidder subject to prior approval of the Commission. The Shares to be tendered are intended to be crossed at the PSE on November 16, 2007 (the "Cross Date"). Settlement Date shall be on the same date.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by securing an Application to Tender Shares form (the "Application Form") from and submitting a duly accomplished Application Form together with the documentary requirements to the Transaction Brokers, BDO Securities Corporation for local investors and Macquarie Securities, Inc. for international investors.

The Transaction Brokers reserve the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Bidder must be received by the Transaction Broker in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of November 16, 2007. Shares received thereafter or without the required documents shall be rejected by the Bidder.

The Shares tendered may be withdrawn by the stockholder of record at any time during the tender offer period by submitting a written request for the tendered Shares to the Transaction Broker and surrendering the original Securities In-Receipt issued by the Transaction Broker. The last day to withdraw tendered Shares shall be on Friday, November 16, 2007 at 12:00 noon.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Bidder for payment on November 16, 2007 at 12:00 noon (the "Closing Date") subject to the condition that the Bidder shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Bidder of the Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Application Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Bidder with the Commission. For queries, please call the Transaction Broker at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Application Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the SMDC, free of charge, from the following:

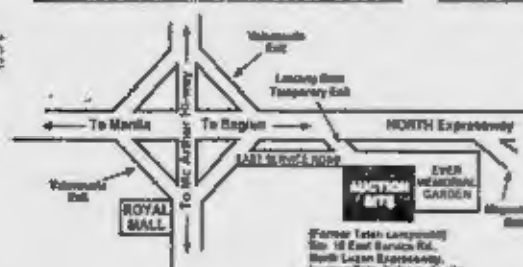
- For local investors:  
BDO Securities Corporation  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor The JMT Corporate Condominium  
No. 27 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City  
Attention: Janet Amora  
Tel. No.: 657-1572  
Attention: Jasper Jimenez  
Tel. No.: 657-3628

- For international investors:  
Macquarie Securities (Philippines) Inc.  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower One and Exchange Plaza  
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue  
Makati City, 1226 Philippines  
New Address on 22 Oct 2007:  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor 6750 Ayala Avenue  
Makati City, 1226 Philippines  
Attention: Pamela Ang  
Tel. No.: (632) 857-0838  
(632) 857-0886  
Ruby M. Mallari  
Tel. No.: (632) 857-0834  
(632) 857-0886  
Email: BGMSS@MMA@macquarie.com  
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## 6,500 RP, US troops in 'Talon'

A TOTAL OF 6,500 FILIPINO and American soldiers are taking part in this year's annual joint training exercises "Talon Vision" and Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex) from Oct. 15 to 31, the United States embassy in Manila announced yesterday.

The exercises are designed to improve interoperability, increased readiness, and continue professional relationships between the US and Philippine armed forces.

US Marines from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force from

Okinawa, Japan and US sailors from the Essex Expeditionary Strike Group, Task Force 76 from Sasebo, Japan will participate in both ground-air and naval integration training with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

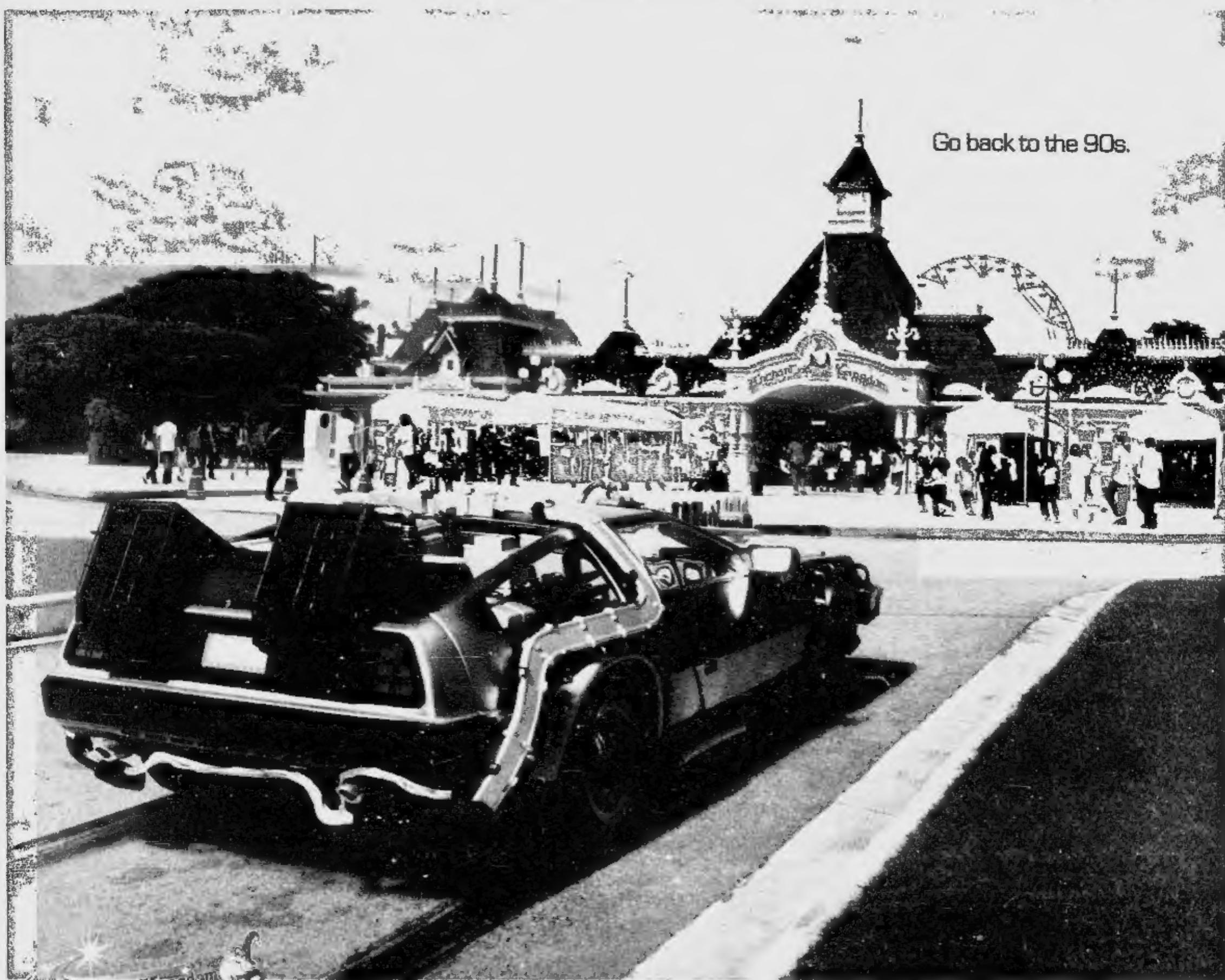
As part of the exercises, the

soldiers will also conduct community outreach projects as well as medical and dental missions to selected sites in the provinces of Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Cavite and Laguna.

Yesterday's opening ceremony for the start of the exercises was held at the Officers Club,

Marine Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Col. Alejandro Camagay Jr., new commander of the 600th Air Base Wing, said this year's exercises will also showcase the capabilities of 40 jet planes and modern helicopters. Cynthia D. Balana



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Pay the ticket price of only P380 as we celebrate our 12th anniversary! Just buy any of the participating Pepsi Cola products at the gate to enjoy our original 1995 price! Everyone goes on all 23 rides with the P380 ticket! The Carousel Special, Senior Day Pass, and Junior Day Pass will be available after the promo period. Hurry because promo runs October 17 to November 30, 2007.



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# Aiko: I gained weight even after lipo!



So far...  
148 LBS.

## Don't Like Lipo? Try Marie France!

"When I gained excess weight, I became desperate. I tried diets, pills and then eventually turned to liposuction. With lipo, you do lose weight, but your body isn't proportioned. Then, if you regain the weight it becomes double — even triple of what you lost before! That's what happened to me. But when I did the Marie France treatments, I just had to lie down and relax. No need for surgery, anesthesia or painful procedures. And I did lose weight! I'm very pleased with the results. But I'm not done yet...I'm continuing to lose weight and get slimmer!"

- Aiko Melendez, Actress

Like Aiko, you don't have to go through painful surgery to slim down!  
Call Marie France now for a FREE consultation.

Call 894-BODY (2639)

**marie france**



# GOING BACK TO BASICS – THE KEY TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Philippines is on the verge of an unprecedented boom. The economy is growing at its strongest rate in 30 years. The stock market has reached its highest index ever. The peso has appreciated by 22 percent in the last three years. Investor confidence in the country is high and growing.

We have to sustain economic growth so that its benefits can filter down to the masses so that their basic needs are met: employment, enough food at reasonable prices, housing, cheaper medicines, better education, and greater access to health care.

## **OUR APPEAL**

In this light, the **Consumer and Oil Price Watch (COPW)** seeks to summon the best in everyone of us  
- IN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, NGOS, THE RELIGIOUS, AND AMONG THE PEOPLE IN GENERAL.  
PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNANCE. HELP IN THE TASK OF FORGING UNITY.  
PUT THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY ABOVE SELF. GET BACK TO BASICS.

**COPW appeals for a return to basics.** To a time of governance when palabra de honor and integrity were the politicians' badge of honor. When transactions with government met the highest standards of transparency and accountability. When changes in government were characterized by predictability, peaceful transition of power, order, and our people's consent through a vote that was cast peacefully and counted honestly. When people participated in governance because they truly loved their country.

**TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, A RETURN TO BASICS IS NOT AT ALL DIFFICULT.**  
*Just consider:*

## **A NEED TO REVIEW THE CONSTITUTION AS IT PERTAINS TO FOREIGN INVESTMENTS**

Today, in Asia and other emerging economies, there is a race to attract foreign investments.  
And it is a fact that our neighbors are growing faster than us in this regard.

Foreign investments play a major role in the country's economic growth. Local funds and technology are insufficient to meet the enormous cost of infrastructure to make the economy competitive and provide jobs to support a growing population and a swelling mass of unemployed.

**COPW believes that the Philippines can be more competitive if the rules governing foreign investments are more attractive. There is, probably therefore, a need to review the Constitution and its provisions affecting foreign investments.**

Perhaps, we should revisit Constitutional provisions that ban foreigners from owning property even for industrial uses, and owning and participating in the development of minerals, marine and other resources.

**There is a need to balance the urgency of meeting our needs through foreign participation in our economy and the demand for preserving the national patrimony for future generations of Filipinos. The two goals are not exactly in conflict nor mutually exclusive. They can meet halfway for the common good.**

**COPW proposes seeking a consensus on this issue** through a public discussion of the merits of strengthening the economy through greater foreign investment participation while meeting the Constitutional mandates of giving priority to the Filipino and preserving the national patrimony.

## **CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION – A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN GOOD GOVERNANCE**

The constant presence of civilian organizations with their placards and loud voices in the streets create the impression that citizens' participation is practiced extensively in the Philippines.

**There are today more than 150,000 civil-society organizations in the country.** While they are allowed to voice their advocacies, are they really listened to? It is time to listen to them. **They can help shape and influence economic, fiscal and social policies.** After all, it is the citizenry that will be most affected by these.

## **TRANSPARENCY IS A BASIC VIRTUE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**We must discard selective transparency and half truths.**

**Let us be totally forthright about all aspects of proposed programs, policies and projects.**

Nowhere is this more applicable than in the way we seek amendments to our Constitution, in the way we undertake and finance major projects, and, indeed, in our day to day dealings with our people.

## **PREDICTABILITY OF BASIC RULES AND REGULATIONS IS THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**

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## HK rights activists due today, want update on slays

By Philip C. Tubeza  
Correspondent

HONG KONG—HUMAN RIGHTS activists and journalists are set to arrive today in Manila to investigate what has happened to the cases of extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances in the Philippines.

Members of the Second HK Mission for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines will be in Manila until Oct. 22 and are hoping to meet with government officials, including Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

The fact-finding team includes Hong Kong democracy activist and legislator Leung Kwok-hung, known here as "Longhair," and members of media who will document the human rights situation in the Philippines.

### Current situation

"One year after the [first] mission, we would like to know what has happened. We would like to know what the government has done to resolve the killings that have become an international concern," said Rey Asis, a member of the team.

"Has justice been given to the victims of human rights violations? Are the moves of the Philippine government to resolve cases of extra-judicial killings and forced disappearances enough? What is the current situation and future of human rights in the Philippines?" he added.

The mission, organized by the HK Campaign for the Advancement of Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines (HKCAHRPP), first visited the country in July 2006 and found

out an "appallingly real" situation of cases of extra-judicial killings continuing to rise and enforced disappearances "slowly" cropping up.

Jackie Hung, project officer of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong and a member of the mission, said their findings last year led the diocese to ask the Vatican to take a tougher stance against the extra-judicial killings.

Hung added that copies of their report were also submitted to Western diplomats based in Hong Kong.

"International and national pressure have been exerted and promises of the government have been made. Now is the time to collect," Asis said.

He said they would meet with members of the Commission on Human Rights, the Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig, and the Public Attorney's Office.

"Even more importantly, we shall meet with families of victims of human rights violations to know what has been done to the cases of their loved ones and how they view their situation. We'll meet some of those we interviewed last year in July, as well as families of more recent victims," Asis said.

The other members of the team include representatives from the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHR), Asian Monitor Resource Center (AMRC), Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples (ACPP), Asian Students Association (ASA), Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) and the Hong Kong Federation of Christian Students (HKFCS).

## GMA: We don't tolerate human rights violations

By Michael Lim Ubac

INSISTING THAT THE COUNTRY was "the most democratic country in the region," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday defended anew her administration's human rights record.

Speaking before human rights advocates during the "Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia," Ms Arroyo said the government had "no tolerance for human rights violations of any kind."

"The Philippines is the most democratic country in the region. We have championed that human rights be included in our Asean (Association of Southeast Asian nations) charter," she said.

"We deplore any and all killings of political activists and journalists. I have met personally with the journalism community and the same with human rights activists. We share their outrage."

But the President wanted to "break the cycle once and for all of political violence by those on the left and on the right."

She said this amid condemnation from the United States and European Union for the



FOREIGN delegates to the Regional Workshop on the Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions held at Trader's Hotel listen to the speech of President Macapagal-Arroyo (inset).

LYN RILLON

endless extrajudicial killings in the country, which have already claimed the lives of over 800 political activists, journalists and religious officials.

Present during the workshop at Trader's Hotel were Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Purificacion Quisumbing,

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, United Nations representatives, members of the diplomatic corps and other CHR commissioners.

The Philippines is co-hosting the workshop which brings together representatives of 13

states from across the region, and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR).

Invited to the workshop are member states which do not yet have established NHRIs in accordance with the "Paris Principles."

## Militant farmers call for new land scheme

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER land reform was decreed throughout the archipelago, militant farmers yesterday renewed calls for a radical solution to rural poverty—the distribution of land for free.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), marking the anniversary of Marcos' land re-

form program (Presidential Decree No. 27), said the government scheme has failed and a majority of Filipino farmers remained landless.

"What we peasants want and truly need is free land distribution. Past experiences of this country in implementing several agrarian reform programs all

failed because farmers could not pay the land," KMP chair Rafael Mariano said.

The group led the formation last Oct. 10 of the People's Alliance for Genuine Agrarian Reform, an advocacy group that would draft a new land distribution bill to be presented to Congress next month to replace

PD 27's successor, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of 1988.

Mariano said they will propose that lands covered and to be covered by a new agrarian reform scheme be distributed for free and that past amortization payments under CARP be written off.

Jerome Anings

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(1916 - 2007)

# Senate turns 91 today

*Remains a bastion of independence*



SENATORS of the 14th Congress led by Senate President Manny Villar. Seated from left are Senators Rodolfo G. Biazon, Pia S. Cayetano, Jinggoy E. Estrada, Miriam D. Santiago, Villar, Loren B. Legarda, Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. and Juan Ponce Enrile. Standing from left are Senators Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Richard "Dick" Gordon, Joker P. Arroyo, Edgardo J. Angara, Benigno S. Aquino III, Panfilo M. Lacson, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Gregorio B. Honasan II, Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero, Alan Peter Compañero S. Cayetano, Mar A. Roxas and M.A. Madrigal. Not in photo is Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV.

## MESSAGES



**WARMEST** congratulations to the officers and staff of the Senate of the Philippines as you celebrate your 91st Anniversary.

Together with the House of Representatives, the Senate is an important pillar of our bicameral legislature. It remains true to its constitutional mandate to enact laws that would ensure our country's stability and development.

My administration is firmly committed to the basic principle that government is a public trust. By fully respecting the separation of powers and the independence of the branches of government, my administration transforms public trust into a public demand for good and effective governance which it is committed to deliver.

I am heartened that the Philippine Senate has been fully supportive of my administration's efforts to ensure a better future for our people. Truly, the great statesmen and staunch nationalists who once walked the Senate halls and who have contributed immensely to the shaping of this nation would not want it differently.

Again, congratulations to all for continually performing your mandate with professionalism and a sense of duty. And may you always remain true to the Senate's noble tradition of promoting our people's and our nation's best interest.

*Mabuhay!*

*Gloria Macapagal Arroyo*  
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO  
President, Republic of the Philippines

**MY warmest greetings** to my fellow civil servants, the members and working staff of the Senate of the Philippines, as you celebrate the 91st Anniversary of this venerable legislative body.

The Senate operates under the vision of Peace, as stated in the Latin inscription *Legis Servat Fides*, which means "Law Serves Peace, Let It Be Done." This Latin maxim embodies the ideals and aspirations of the Senate to pass relevant laws so that our country will attain peace.

To have lasting peace, we must be bold in our national ambitions. We need to enact laws that will arrest corruption in government, and address the issue of widespread poverty so that these problems will not erode the very foundation of our democratic nation. We must improve moral standards in government and society to create a strong foundation for good governance and true reforms. Lastly, I urge everyone to exemplify good leadership by promoting solid values, such as respectable work ethic and modest lifestyle.

I exhort our honorable Senators to continue to be steadfast in your worthwhile endeavors. Let us consolidate our efforts and work unselfishly to achieve and maintain an efficient and responsive public service.

*Mabuhay!*

*Noli De Castro*  
NOLI DE CASTRO  
Vice-President, Republic of the Philippines



**TO** my colleagues in the Senate, its hardworking officers and staff, my warmest greetings as you mark the 91st Anniversary of the Institution in October 2007.

In behalf of the House of Representatives, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the distinguished men and women as you celebrate nine decades of crafting laws that respond to the needs of our time. These laws - enacted under our two-chamber setup - have made Congress a major institution of reform and change.

The last 13th Congress had been the most trying for both the Senate and the House of Representatives. While we had different interpretation of our mandate to make laws, at the end of the day we were able to thresh out our differences and agree on vital and urgent legislation.

We are aware that we have to do more to make our country politically stable and economically prosperous. We have our priorities approved in the LEDAC - and we are guided by our vision of what the future should be for the nation. A dynamic legislature must look to the future with confidence and audacity. It is also crucial that we learn from history so as not to repeat it.

Our work in Congress is a relentless quest for a better future for the country and our people.

*Mabuhay!*

*Jose de Venecia, Jr.*  
JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.  
Speaker, House of Representatives

**CLOSE** to a century ago, the passing of the "Philippine Autonomy Act" paved the way for the creation of a bicameral Philippine legislature, with the Senate of the Philippines functioning as its upper chamber, and the House of Representatives as the lower chamber. Tasked with the determination and deliberation of national policies and the enactment of laws germane to national issues, the bicameral Congress, with the Senate at its helm, served the people magnanimously. It harbingered the framing and the adoption of the 1935 Constitution, the founding of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, and, ultimately, the political independence of the Philippines.

Since its creation 91 years ago, the Senate has been constantly regarded as one of the guardians of the Philippine society. Throughout the numerous crucial turning points of Philippine history, the Senate has been continuously resolute in upholding its Constitutional mandate as a lawmaking body. But it has done so never to the detriment of the people, from whom the power to possess such mandate is derived.

U.S. President James Madison Jr., considered to be the "Father of the Constitution," once said, "The aim of every political constitution is, or ought to be, first to obtain for rulers men who possess most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pursue, the common good of the society; and in the next place, to take the most effectual precautions for keeping them virtuous whilst they continue to hold their public trust." I fervently hope that you, the wise and virtuous men and women of the Senate of the Philippines, continue to serve our nation and our people honorably and vigilantly, as your predecessors have done in the past century.

Congratulations on the occasion of your 91st anniversary.

*Mabuhay kayo!*

*Renato S. Puno*  
RENATO S. PUNO  
Chief Justice, Supreme Court



## Villar's vision for the Senate

SENATE President Manny Villar has assured that the Philippine Senate will maintain its "institutional independence, beholden to no political power but to the sovereignty of the Filipino people."

To attain his vision, the Senate President has asked his colleagues to rise above their political differences and re-examine the agenda of national development.

The Senate celebrates today, Oct. 16, its 91st anniversary.

"We must revisit the agenda of national development, identify the missing links and redirect our combined legislative wisdom to achieve a sustainable and equitable economic growth for all," said Villar, the 20th Senate President, at the opening of the 14th Congress last July.

Villar, who is also President of the Nacionalista

Party, recognizes the fact that the Senate is composed of statesmen and women from a wide spectrum of diverse beliefs and ideologies, but united in the conviction to serve the Filipino people.

"We must seek to collaborate and find workable solutions under the guidance of a shared national vision," he said.

"Over the years, the Senate has been the subject of much criticism and doubt, leading many to conclude that it is best to abolish it. However, time and again, the Senate's crucial role in the balance of power among its co-equal branches of government is emphasized by the emergence of issues of national concern, that leave our people no one or nothing to run to but the Senate," Villar said.

He said a legislative body, like the Senate, is an effective instrument of check and balance in a republican and democratic government. But, he added, the grandeur of this purpose is lost to some who think that the Senate's role is one of unfailing negative criticism bordering on sheer obstructionism.

"On the contrary, the Senate exists to repair deficiencies and remove the very obstacles to national economic growth such as inefficiency, instability and cor-

ruption. The dynamics of democracy dictate that we cannot be a passive Senate; it calls for reforms, accountability and transparency," the Senate chief emphasized.

During his leadership, Villar

ful bureaucracy and widespread poverty.

"Looming large on the horizon of national priorities is the urgency of generating additional income for more Filipinos. The answer lies not so much in cre-

ating more jobs but in enabling those who are resourceful, hardworking and success-driven to become job providers themselves through their own enterprises, however small," the Senate President said.

He also urged his colleagues to always prove the relevance of the Senate "by crafting and passing laws that mirror our collective goal to improve the lives of our fellow Filipinos."

By doing the twin tasks of "fiscalizing and forging new laws," senators will be able "to show the Filipino electorate that they did not commit the fatal mistake of choosing the

wrong people as their voice in the Senate," he said.

Under Villar's stewardship, the Senate continues to carry out its investigative duties as part of the power of oversight and vows that shenanigans in government will never be condoned.



Senate President Manny Villar presides the session.

## Priority bills passed by the Senate

(July 26 - October 9, 2007)

- Cheaper Medicines (Senate Bill No. 1658)
- Magna Carta for Small and Medium Enterprises (Senate Bill No. 1646)
- Batas Kasambahay (Senate Bill No. 1662)
- Judiciary Retirement Benefits (Senate Bill No. 1620)
- Good Conduct Time Allowance to Detention Prisoners (Senate Bill No. 1647)
- Anti-Theft and Robbery of Mobile Phones and Devices (Senate Bill No. 1697)
- Breastfeeding Act (Senate Bill No. 1698)
- Environmental Awareness (Senate Bill No. 1699)
- Presentation of Suspects to Media (Senate Joint Resolution No. 4)



# Target: Population control

## Increased budget for family planning eyed

By Christian V. Esguerra

WITH DELIBERATIONS ON THE 2008 national budget all but completed in the House of Representatives, the chair of the powerful committee on appropriations has shifted his focus on the contentious issue of population control.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman has revived a failed legislative measure in the 13th Congress that sought to address the supposed problem of ballooning population,

## Ejectment suit vs MIAA junked

THE COURT OF APPEALS DISMISSED an ejectment suit against the Manila International Airport Authority filed by private companies claiming ownership of a 7-hectare area in Parañaque.

The court, however, did not rule on the ownership of the disputed property, saying this was the subject of another case.

The ejectment or unlawful detainer case was filed by Caridad and Alejandro Almendras, Ruth Realty Corporation Inc. and Felix Serina.

They claimed that the MIAA's lease on the land expired in 1998 and tried to prove their ownership of the property by presenting a transfer certificate of title (TCT).

MIAA contested the case by presenting another TCT which showed that the property was owned by the Republic of the Philippines since 1981. *Leila B. Salaverria*

partly in the context of national budgets and revenues.

Lagman's pet measure, House Bill No. 17, seeks a "national policy on reproductive health, responsible parenthood and population development."

Pending formal discussions on the bill at the committee level, he said the lower house was poised to jack up to an even higher amount the current P180-million budget for the family planning program.

From the current proposed increase of P1 billion, the amount could up by another P500 million, he said.

"Definitely, it would be more than P1 billion," he told the *Inquirer* on Sunday.

But Lagman said the Catholic Church and pro-life advocates should not be alarmed with the adjustment, insisting that the family planning program would embrace both natural and artificial methods.

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, October 16, 2007

28th Week in Ordinary Time

Hedwig / Margaret Mary Alacoque

1st Reading: Rom 1:16-25

Gospel: Luke 11:37-41

As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to have a meal with him. So he went and sat at table. The Pharisee then wondered why Jesus did not first wash his hands before dinner. But the Lord said to him, "So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are full of greed and evil. Fools! He who made the outside, also made the inside. But according to you, by the mere giving of alms everything is made clean."

### Commentary

The gospel reveals the justice of God and God's truth—revealing who is evil or perverse and who is just. God is clear to us now and so our actions and our lives reveal whether or not we remain in God, or if we have degenerated into people that are not human in our behavior. Do we treasure the glory of God that has been shared with us in baptism? Do we take it for granted? Or have we laid it aside by the way we do evil in our hearts with others and against others?

Jesus is invited to a Pharisee's house to dine. But Jesus does not perform the customary ablutions before eating. The Pharisee notices and Jesus knows that his heart judges him harshly. The Pharisee is concerned with outward appearances while inwardly his heart (and ours) is disgustingly filled with viciousness and evil. God knows—God who has made both inside and outside. But if we wish to be made clean, we can give alms. Perhaps we need to look to ourselves, and the groups we belong to and see what alms we must give in order to be made clean before our God.

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## Bonuan 'bangus' gets scarce in Pangasinan

By Gabriel Cardinosa  
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—THE FABLED Bonuan bangus may soon become a rarity here as only a few fishpond operators are growing it, according to city agriculturist Emma Molina.

"Our fishponds are now being used as transition ponds, meaning they are now used to grow bangus fries into fingerlings for stocking in fish cages or fish pens," she said.

The Bonuan bangus—the tastiest among Pangasinan milkfish variety—feeds on lablab (benthic blue algae), diatoms and planktons and are grown only in ponds in Barangays Bonuan Gueset, Boquig and Binloc.

It cannot grow heavier than 250 grams because of its dependence on natural food.

Compared to Pangasinan or Dagupan bangus, which are raised in fish pens and cages and subsist on formulated feeds, Bonuan bangus has a shorter arched belly, fatter, finer and whiter shiny scales, shorter tail and smaller head.

During one of her visits here, President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted to being a "certified Bonuan bangus lover."

"It's delicious," she said, adding that even before she became President, she and her family would always drop by

this city to eat the fish.

Of the more than 500 fish pond operators here, only about 100 are growing Bonuan bangus, Molina said. "And they are not even all located in Bonuan. They are all over Dagupan and they are not doing it regularly."

She, however, said the milkfish variety raised in fish ponds elsewhere in the city had no "very significant" difference in taste with the Bonuan.

"Still, Bonuan bangus has been a byword in the industry and we cannot also claim that those not grown in Bonuan are Bonuan bangus because we associate Bonuan bangus to the place of culture, which is Bonuan," she said.

Bangus growers have shifted to fish pens and cages because of bigger profit, Molina said.

If the fish is raised in ponds, profit is not maximized, she said. "This is because the rearing takes about six months or more. Besides, the growing medium, which is the water level in fish ponds, is no longer that favorable."

"Except for some ponds that are located along the city's river system, where water exchange is not a problem, they can still go into growing bangus but the profit is much, much less than when they grow in the fish pens," she said.



A TEAM of Greenpeace "Water Patrol" activists called attention to the extent of pollution in Marilao River. Other rivers in the country are in a similar situation but calls for their preservation are largely unheeded.

JOAN BONDOC

## Fish cages seen pollution cause

DAGUPAN CITY—An environmental group has asked the government of Agno, Pangasinan, to remove the fish cages along the Balincaguig River, saying these were "incompatible" with the river's classification, which is for recreation and

navigation.

In a position paper, the Agno Concerned Citizens for Ecologically Secured and Sustainable Development (Access) said the cages were also illegal because the town's tax ordinance did not provide "any form of taxation for such activity."

### Origins

Balincaguig River is a major river system that originates from the Zambales mountains and snakes through

the towns of Mabini, Burgos and Agno. Its mouth in Barangay Sabangan in Agno is dotted by huge mushroom-shaped boulders known as the "Umbrella Rocks."

"No activity that is incompatible with its declared classification and use must be allowed. Definitely, bangus (milkfish) cages must not be put in the river," Access said in a position paper.

### Fish feed

The document has been sent to Ag-

no Mayor Arthur Cabantac.

Access said the use of fish feed in the cages will destroy water quality.

"The unconsumed feeds will also settle at the bottom of the river... causing pollution and reduction in water depth. Many of us are living victims of flooding," Access said.

"Once the river is polluted, no amount of cleansing can bring it back to its natural beauty," it said.

In a separate let-

ter to Cabantac, Lydia Colobong, an Access officer, said the fish cages should instead be put in the open sea.

### Open to investors

Colobong said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has designated mariculture parks in Sto. Tomas, La Union, "and these areas are still open [to investors]."

As a recreation area, she said floating picnic sheds or rafts could be placed on the Bal-

incaguig River for visitors' use.

"Let us develop our town rather than destroy it," Colobong said. She said the river's wetland areas could also be developed for eco-tourism and biodiversity conservation.

She cited a study that indicated that the world's smallest and biggest bats are found in Agno. "There are also several endemic birds in Agno," she said. Gabriel Cardinosa, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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## The mysteries around Pearl of Allah

By Redempto Anda  
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BROOKE'S POINT, PALAWAN—Gathering dust on the floor of an unkempt government office in this town is the shell of what is believed to be the world's largest pearl.

The Pearl of Allah or the Pearl of Lao Tzu, as the gem is now called, has been generally ignored by casual visitors used to seeing much bigger *Tridacna* shells displayed in local restaurants as adornment or plumbing fixture. Its history as a relic and prized treasure remains to be unearthed and properly told.

Local researchers claim to have documented narrative evidence to indicate that the pearl originated here in 1935 and was not handed to a foreigner as a gift, as generally viewed, but actually stashed away to be sold and never return.

The gem is 9.4 inches long and weighs 14 pounds.

According to the Guinness' Book of World Records, the San Francisco Gem Laboratory values the pearl at \$40 million.

### Image in clam

The Muslim diver, who found the gem, said its surface bore the image of a turbaned face, and he named it the Pearl of Allah.

Raul Quijano Jr., an engineer



THIS IS the clam of the Pearl of Allah, the world's biggest pearl.

REDEMPTO ANDA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

who also acts as the municipality's tourism officer, and his team have made researches on the history of the pearl and to have traced the descendants of Panglima Pisi, the tribal chieftain who gave the pearl to a certain Wilburn Dowell Cobb on May 7, 1934.

"There are now doubts on the account of how the shell ended up with Mr. Cobb. He (Cobb) claimed that it was given to him for saving the life of his child from malaria," Quijano said.

"But Panglima Pisi's descendants are saying that it was actually given to him to be sold to a buyer. He just never came back," he said.

### Descendant

George Pisi, who claims to be a direct descendant of Panglima Pisi, possesses half of the shell where the Pearl of Allah was found. The other half was donated to the municipal government by a village official in Oring-oring where the pearl was reportedly found.

Last year, George was certified by the mayor as an authentic descendant of Panglima Pisi.

Quijano said that based on verbal accounts handed down by two generations of descendants, Panglima Pisi had asked Cobb to find a buyer for the pearl but the latter never returned to the village.

### Reward

In his account published originally in the Natural History magazine in 1939, Cobb said a Muslim diver had drowned when his foot was caught by the giant *Tridacna* giga clam. When the body was brought to Panglima Pisi, the chieftain took possession of the bivalve and discovered the pearl inside.

Cobb said his first offer to buy the pearl from Panglima Pisi was turned down.

But when he returned to the village in 1939, he came upon the chieftain's dying son and helped him recover from malaria using Western medicine.

As a reward, the tribal leader supposedly gave him the pearl.

Quijano said that while much of Cobb's account might be true, the descendants had claimed that in several instances, Panglima Pisi had gone to Borneo to try and sell the pearl.

### Sold

Cobb brought the pearl back to the United States in 1939 and had it authenticated in the American Museum of Natural History.

After his death in 1980, Cobb's estate sold the pearl to a Victor M. Barbish, a millionaire from Colorado Springs, who wanted to give it to his daughter Gina Diane Barbish. Barbish said the pearl is lodged in a Denver bank vault and a series of safe deposit boxes, and has reportedly expressed his desire to turn it over to a museum.

An Associated Press story on the pearl in 2005 quoted Barbish as saying: "It draws the wrong type of people."

Barbish, who now owns 66 percent of the pearl, has claimed to have received an offer in 1999 from the world's top terrorist, Osama bin Laden, for \$60 million, purportedly to give to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

He also claimed that an emissary of President Ferdinand Marcos offered to buy it, but the deal did not push through when the Philippine dictator was ousted from power in 1986.

### Chinese legend

Based on Barbish's accounts, a Chinese merchant, who is a descendant of the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, told him that the pearl dated back to the Sui dynasty.

Lao Tzu, the founder of Taoism, had reportedly wanted to spend his final years far from civilization. As he prepared to depart, he handed to a nephew a small amulet to be placed inside a clam, where it grew to become the Pearl of Lao Tzu.

Eventually, the legend continues, the pearl was lost in a shipwreck centuries ago, then found in 1934 by a diver who drowned when he reached into a huge clam to take it.

Early this year, a Colorado jury awarded a \$34.4-million share on the pearl to the heirs of a woman whose husband, bar owner Joe Bonicelli, was linked to her murder in 1975.

His children now reportedly want the pearl sold so they can be paid the settlement they won against their father's estate.

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# RP is forward operating base of US

From page A1

One obstacle, however, remains—domestic opposition to US military presence in the Philippines. As yet another USAF-funded study acknowledged: "On the matter of US access to military facilities in the Philippines, the general view of Philippine security experts is that for domestic political reasons it would be difficult to give the appearance that the United States is reestablishing its bases in the Philippines."

Hence, the aim has been to avoid giving this appearance. As Admiral Dennis Blair, former commander of the US Pacific Command, explained: "[W]e are adapting our plans and cooperation of the past to the future. Those plans do not include any request by the United States for bases in the Philippines of the kind that we have had in the past."

"Our basic interest," said former US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, "is to have the ability to go into a country and have a relationship and have understandings about our ability to land or overfly and to do things that are of mutual benefit to each of us. But we don't have any particular plans for permanent bases if that's the kind of thing you mean."

Thus, instead of "the kind of bases we had in the past," the United States is trying something new.

## Training for access

First, the United States has stepped up deploying troops, ships, and equipment to the country ostensibly for training exercises, humanitarian and engineering projects, and other missions.

Though the Visiting Forces Agreement was approved in 1998, it was only in 2001 that the number and the size of troops involved in training exercises jumped significantly. Last year alone, up to 37 exer-

cises were scheduled; up from around 24 in the preceding years. As many as 5,000 US troops were involved, depending on the exercise. As a result of these continuing deployments, Francis Ricciardone, a former US ambassador to the Philippines, had described the US presence in the country as "semi-continuous."

Apart from training allied troops, the holding of joint exercises allows the United States to gain temporary—but repeated and regular—access to the territories of countries in which the exercises are held. As Admiral Thomas Fargo, then US Pacific Command head, noted in March 2003: "The habitual relationships built through exercises and training... is our biggest guarantor of access in time of need."

He said: "Access over time can develop into habitual use of certain facilities by deployed US forces with the eventual goal of being guaranteed use in a crisis, or permission to preposition logistics stocks and other critical material in strategic forward locations."

As US troops come and go in rotation for frequent and regular exercises, their presence—when taken together—makes up a formidable forward-presence that brings them closer to areas of possible action without need for huge infrastructure to support them and without inciting a lot of public attention and opposition.

As analyst Eric Peltz had told the US House armed services committee: "Other methods of positioning, such as training rotations, can provide a temporary 'forward position' or sustain a long-term position without permanent forward unit basing."

And as US troops depart, they leave behind the infrastructure that they had built and used ostensibly for the exercises and

which could still be of use to the US military in the future for missions different from those for which they were initially built.

In General Santos City, for example, the United States constructed a deep-water port and one of the most modern domestic airports in the country, connected to each other by one of the country's best roads. In Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, where US troops routinely go for exercises, the airport has been renovated and its runway strengthened to carry the weight of C-130 planes. In Basilan and Sulu, venues of Balikatan exercises, the United States, through the US Agency for International Development, has also built roads and ports that can berth huge ships.

This is consistent with a US-AP-funded study which recommended having more deployments to have more infrastructure. By increasing deployments, notes the study, the United States can get into arrangements that "include measures to tailor local infrastructure to USAF operations by extending runways, improving air traffic control facilities, repairing parking aprons and the like."

Along with troops, an increasing number of ships have also been entering the country with growing frequency ostensibly for exercises and humanitarian missions. "[T]he Navy counts those ships as providing overseas presence full time, even when they are training or simply tied up at the pier," said the US Congressional Budget Office.

The United States has viewed these regular and frequent "temporary" deployments as part of its global "posture." As the National Defense Strategy states, "Our posture also includes the many military activities in which we engage around the world. This means not only our physical presence in key re-

gions, but also our training, exercises, and operations."

## Without permanent basing

Second, the United States has obliged the Philippines to provide it with a broad range of services that would enable it to launch and sustain operations from the Philippines when necessary.

In September 2001, President Macapagal-Arroyo granted the United States free access to its ports and offered it overflight rights. In November 2002, the US and Philippine governments signed the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), which has been described by researchers with the US Congressional Research Service as "allowing the United States to use the Philippines as a supply base for military operations throughout the region."

The MLSA obliges the Philippine government to exert "best efforts" to provide the United States with logistics supplies, support and services during exercises, training, operations, and other US military deployments. The agreement defines these to include food, water, petroleum, oils, clothing, ammunition, spare parts and components, billeting, transportation, communication, medical services, operation support, training services, repair and maintenance, storage services, and port services. "Construction and use of temporary structures" are also covered.

## Cooperative security locations

In other words, the MLSA gives the United States access to the full range of services that the US military would require to operate in and from the country. Through the MLSA, the United States has secured for itself the services that it would normally be able to provide itself inside a large permanent base but without constructing and retaining large permanent bases, and without incurring the costs and the political problems that such bases pose.

Third, the United States has established in the Philippines a new category of military installations it calls "Cooperative Security Locations" (CSLs).

In August 2005, the Overseas Basing Commission, the official commission tasked with re-

viewing US basing, categorically identified the Philippines as one of the countries where CSLs were being developed by the United States in the region. As mentioned earlier, CSLs refer to facilities owned by host-governments but are to be made available for use by the US military as needed.

The Philippine government has not disclosed the locations and other details of these CSLs. But the description by Robert Kaplan, a prominent American journalist and best-selling author who has visited such facilities around the world, is quoted here in full because of the dearth of information about them and because parts of it could be describing the Philippines.

"A Cooperative Security Location can be a tucked-away corner of a host country's civilian airport, or a dirt runway somewhere with fuel and mechanical help nearby, or a military airport in a friendly country with which we have no formal basing agreement but, rather, an informal arrangement with private contractors acting as go-betweens... The United States provides aid to upgrade maintenance facilities, thereby helping the host country to better protect its own air and naval power in the region. At the same time, we hold periodic exercises with the host country's military, in which the base is a focus," Kaplan said.

"We also offer humanitarian help to the surrounding area. Such civil-affairs projects garner positive publicity for our military in the local media... The result is a positive diplomatic context for getting the host country's approval for use of the base when and if we need it," he said.

The terms of the MLSA and the establishment of CSLs reflect the United States' increasing emphasis on just-in-time logistics support and prepositioning of equipment to ensure that US forces are always ready and on the go. Therefore, it is not so much the size of the base that matters but whether it can provide the US military with what it needs, when it's needed.

As the Council on Foreign Relations pointed out: "While host nation support often carries the connotation of basing, its role of staging and access is perhaps more critical. Support for port visits, ship repairs, overflight rights, training areas, and opportunities, and areas to mar-

shal, stage, repair, and resupply are no less important for both daily US presence in the region and for rapid and flexible crisis response."

## Forward operating base

Fourth, the United States has succeeded in indefinitely stationing a US military unit in the country.

Since 2002, a unit now called the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) has been deployed to the southern Philippines. While initially presented as being part of on-again off-again temporary training exercises, it has since been revealed that this unit has maintained its presence in the country continuously for the last six years.

With the Philippine government not giving a definite exit date, and with US officials stating that this unit will stay on as long as it is allowed by the government, it is presumed that it will continue to be based in the Philippines for the long haul.

The unit is headquartered in the Philippine military's Camp Navarro in Zamboanga City but its "area of operations," according to a US military publication, spans 8,000 square miles, covering the entire island of Mindanao and its surrounding islands and seas.

The number of troops belonging to the unit has ranged from 100 to 450 but it is not clear what the actual total is for a specific period, according to a comprehensive compilation of various media reports. It varies "depending on the season and the mission," said US Lt. Col. Mark Zimmer, JSOTF-P public affairs officer.

When it was publicly revealed last month that the US Department of Defense, via a US military construction unit, had granted a contract to a company providing "base operations support" for the JSOTF-P, the US Embassy admitted that the United States was setting up allegedly "temporary" structures for "medical, logistical, administrative services" and facilities "for them to eat, sleep and work."

The Visiting Forces Commission of the Philippines also confirmed that the United States was maintaining "living quarters" and stocks supplies inside Philippine military camps.

(Herbert Docena (herbert@focusweb.org) is a researcher with Focus on the Global South, a policy research institute.)

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## Fearful faces get noticed first before smiling ones

From page A1

The researchers believe fearful facial expressions make a beeline to the alarm center of the brain known as the amygdala, cueing humans to potential threats.

"We think what is happening with fear is that this is a critical threat signal for us," said David Zald, associate professor of psychology at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.

"Fear tells you something is wrong, and you need to pay attention," Zald said in a telephone interview on Sunday.

To find out which images get the brain's attention first, Zald, graduate student Eunice Yang and colleagues used a technique called visual flash suppression that slows down the brain's responses to facial expressions—which typically register in less than 40 milliseconds.

## Special viewer

The researchers had people look into a special viewer that allowed each eye to see different images at the same time.

"If you present different images to the two eyes, usually you will only perceive one of them at a time," Zald explained.

The image that registers with the brain typically depends on which eye is dominant for that person.

"But if one of the eyes is presented by a dynamic, changing stimulus, it will basically suppress perception from the other eye," Zald said.

Using this approach, the researchers showed people a static image of a face in one eye and a series of rapidly presented, random images in another, creating a type of visual "noise."

People then were asked to indicate when they first registered the static face in the first eye.

## The eyes have it

The researchers found that people became aware of fearful expressions much faster than neutral or happy faces. "We were seeing it pretty much universally," Zald said.

He thinks it has something to do with the eyes.

"If you compare the amounts of the whites showing with a fearful face versus a neutral face, the difference is really quite striking," Zald said.

People who were shown images only of eyes consistently picked out the fearful ones first.

Zald said fear appeared to be such important information that these images shortcut the normal pathway for processing visual images through the visual cortex.

## Little interest

The study, which appears in the journal *Emotion*, also reveals how little interest the brain has in smiling faces.

"The happy expressions were slower to be detected than even the neutral expressions," Zald said, suggesting things that signal a lack of threat need decreased attention.

He said facial expressions represented a crucial way for people to convey social information.

"We see the effects on people who can't do this well. Autistic children, for instance, cannot read emotional expressions in others very well. They have devastating social consequences because of this," Zald said. *Reuters*





THROUGH song and dance, members of the Global Call to Action against Poverty prepare to mark International Day of Hunger and Poverty Eradication on Oct. 17. **MODEL NOTION**

## Local group taps music in fight against poverty

From page A1

where people are encouraged to act and empowered to do something about their situation," May-i Fabros, GCAP Philippines media campaigner, told the INQUIRER.

Introducing "Poverty Requiem" to naturally music-loving Filipinos is a new tack, Fabros said, of bringing back awareness to those who have started to take poverty for granted "because they see it around them every day."

She stressed that the message was hard to deliver but through music, her group hoped to "spark" some feeling back.

"People should be made aware that if poverty happens to one person, it could ultimately happen to you," she said.

Fabros added that the song would also help people already in the grip of poverty "to understand their rights so they would know what to do to live above it." She said that her group wanted to focus on the right of a person to see a better life and live decently.

"Poverty Requiem," Fabros said, "will hopefully start a fire within people to help them find ways in uplifting their lives. It encourages turning desperation to power. Art and music can do that."

"We are producing generations and generations of persons who see poverty as an inescapable fact of life. I was born poor therefore, I will always remain poor and I cannot do anything about it. That's the mind-set we want to change," she said.

### Artistic performance

"Poverty Requiem" is an artistic performance against poverty that combines visual art, music and movement. Divided into five parts, the piece is a journey of standing up and speaking out against poverty, of the suffering, the anger, the mourning, the humor and the hope.

The five-part song started from the Netherlands and was composed by Sylvia Borren, GCAP General Director.

It is more of a community choral presentation where people from all walks of life are anticipated to participate. "Even those who cannot sing well are encouraged to join and even those who do not want to sing. They can just dance to the music," she stressed.

The core performers of "Poverty Requiem" come from four sectors—the youth, males, professionals and a "scratch or inexperienced" group that would be organized from the community, two solo singers, percussionists, and dancers.

### Bono of the Philippines

Fabros said that her organization could not have found a better ambassador in singer-composer Noel Cabangon, who has been in the forefront of the campaign for the eradication of poverty even before GCAP Philippines was formed in 2005.

"He is basically, the Nelson Mandela or U2's Bono of the Philippines, who is not just doing this for publicity but for true advocacy. He has been doing this for years through his songs," she noted.

Cabangon is the coordinator of "Poverty Requiem" here and has tapped Malou Maturte, a professor at the University of the Philippines College of Music, to act as the conductor of the community choir.

### Getting message across

"Even if we only have a hundred participants, we know that we can get the message across. We have to be a community to make change," Fabros pointed out, adding that "Poverty Requiem" will form part of a chain of countries, from First World to Third World, tomorrow who want to erase poverty.

"The call is around us, worldwide, and it is only fitting that we express our outrage against poverty through music, a universal language that everyone can understand and feel," Fabros said.

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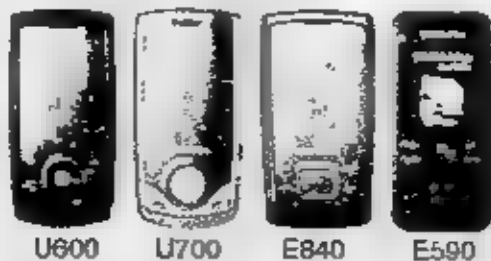
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OPINION

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## Purchased friendships

**I**N THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, PRESIDENT Macapagal Arroyo has been sitting uneasily in her office in Malacañang Palace, constantly facing threats to her continuance in office. It is a tribute to her political instincts and Machiavellian ways that she still sits on the throne, although it is a throne propped up by bayonets.

Like the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Ms Arroyo knows that the only way an unpopular president can stay in office is to get the unflinching support of the armed forces and the police. She has also learned well the lesson of deposed President Joseph Estrada, one of the most popular presidents ever to sit in Malacañang, who lost the presidency because he lost the support of the military and the police.

Now she is facing another threat in the form of planned impeachment moves. Again, she has moved swiftly, and this time it is the support of congressmen and local government officials that she is trying to obtain. The game plan was to approve a weak impeachment charge against Ms Arroyo so that she would be "immunized" from other, possibly stronger impeachment cases for a year.

As in the case of the armed forces and the police, the principal weapon of the President is money, judging from the reports about the "cash gifts," "assistance," "goodwill presents," etc. given after crucial meetings in Malacañang.

The exposure of the bribery of the congressmen, who will vote on the impeachment case filed against Ms Arroyo, started last Monday when Rep. Crispin Beltran of the Anakpawis party-list group said a Malacañang "functionary" had offered him P2 million to endorse the "weak" impeachment case against the President. Three other administration congressmen later confirmed the "cash gifts" from Malacañang. One subsequently denied it. A source later said the amounts given to the congressmen were above-board, and of the average P220,000 distributed to every legislator, P150,000 was for three months' allowance while P70,000 was a "bonus" from Speaker Jose de Venecia. But if that was so, why was the money distributed in Malacañang, and after a meeting with the President?

Then on Saturday, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio disclosed that a Palace official handed him a brown paper gift bag containing P500,000 in crisp P1,000 bills. This was given to him after separate meetings of local government officials with the President in Malacañang on Thursday. He said he accepted it after he was told that he could use the money for "barangay projects."

Last Sunday, two other governors said they received P500,000 each from Malacañang. The ostensible reason for the "gift" was to obtain their support for the weak impeachment case against Ms Arroyo so that she would be "immunized" for at least a year.

These reports about the bribery of congressmen, governors and mayors show the depths of brazenness to which the President and her subalterns will descend in corrupting government officials to obtain their support for a move that would ensure her continuance in office. Bribery is committed right at the seat of the presidency or in the halls of Congress.

Is the money being given away public funds? If they are public funds, then the congressmen and the local government officials should have been made to sign receipts and other official documents showing the disbursement of public funds. These funds are money that comes from taxpayers and they have the right to ask Malacañang to account for their disbursement. If these are the private funds of Ms Arroyo, how can she afford to give away sums amounting to hundreds of millions, possibly billions, to these officials?

If the money being used to bribe congressmen, governors and mayors are public funds, it is ironic that taxpayers' money is being used to prop up a President who has lost the confidence of the great majority of the citizens. If an election were to be held today, Ms Arroyo would be booted out of office. A Social Weather Stations survey published last Sept. 24 showed that only 3 of every 10 Filipinos were satisfied with her performance.

One passage in Machiavelli's "The Prince" says that "friendships that are obtained by payments, and not by greatness or nobility of mind, may indeed be earned, but they are not secured, and in time of need cannot be relied upon."

Money may save the President now, but she cannot be sure about her position all the time.



## Caesar's choice

### VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



BY CRUSHING THE "SAFFRON REVOLUTION," led by Buddhist monks, the Burmese junta claimed for Caesar what belongs to God.

But how does the right to freedom of worship fare in other Southeast Asian countries? The track record is mixed in rendering to God what is not Caesar's, says the 2007 International Religious Freedom report. It ranges from fine in Buddhist Thailand and Christian Philippines to improving in socialist Vietnam. "Even in the best of circumstances...it cannot be stated categorically that any government fully respected this right," cautions this annual US State Department report. But some countries did better than others.

The constitutions of most Asean countries stitch in provisions on freedom of worship, except Burma's. The generals are in no hurry to restore the charter: they scrapped in 1988.

Next-door Thailand allows "the generally free practice of religion." About 94 percent of Thais are Buddhists and 5 percent Muslims. There have been "no reports of societal abuses based on religious belief." In four of the five southern provinces, separatist violence is causing tense relations between Buddhist and Muslim communities.

Brunei's constitution states that the country's religion is Muslim "according to the Shafi'i sect...The country's various religious groups co-exist peacefully." But Brunei clamps restrictions on non-Shafi'i religious practice. Christianity is a no-no in schools, but Muslim students get voluntary Islamic instruction. Laws and financial incentives for mosque construction promote official Islam.

Malaysia's constitution recognizes Islam as "the religion of the Federation." About 60 percent of Malaysians are Muslims. Policies lump economic and educational preferences for ethnic Malays who are legally categorized as Muslims at birth. Political parties hew to ethnic and religious lines.

Non-Muslims may worship as they see fit. But restrictions hem them in. Distribution of Malay-language Christian literature in Peninsular

Malaysia is forbidden. Muslims may not convert to another religion. Non-Muslims must convert to Islam, if they want to marry a Muslim.

Kuala Lumpur's Federal Court is reviewing complaints where children, born of non-Muslim converts or who married in churches or temples, were forcibly taken by Islamic religious authorities from parents. They are returned after religious "rehabilitation" of the "deviating" parent.

In Singapore, "there were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious belief or practice." About 85 out of every 100 Singaporeans "profess some religious faith." Majority (51 percent) are Buddhists. Muslims and Christians make up 30 percent.

Speech or actions which government deem to "adversely affect racial or religious harmony" are curbed. Jehovah's Witnesses and the Unification Church have been banned but foreign missionaries work unhindered.

Vietnam made jerky but steady progress in broadening respect for religious practice. Under its 2004 Ordinance on Religion and Belief, new churches were registered throughout the 64 provinces. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung met Pope Benedict XVI in January 2007 on the further easing of curbs. But registration of Protestant congregations and Catholic seminaries suffered bureaucratic delays, etc. "Nevertheless, most religious groups reported improved conditions... And Vietnamese citizens practice religion more freely."

Although Jakarta recognizes only six major religions, most Indonesians, "enjoyed a high degree of religious freedom (and) the public generally respected religious freedom." Over 88 percent of 245 million Indonesians are Mus-

lims. Christians make up 9 percent. Government sometimes glosses over discrimination and abuse of minority religious groups. "Instances of extremists attempting to terrorize members of other religions occurred in certain provinces... Many perpetrators...were not brought to justice." Government didn't flex constitutional authority to overturn local laws that abrogated the rights of women and religious minorities.

The Philippines "generally respected its constitutional provision on freedom of religion." Majority are Catholics. Between 5 and 9 percent of Filipinos are Muslims. Most are Sunnis, with a sprinkling of Shi'a believers. An estimated 12 to 16 million belong to indigenous groups who mix their native religious creeds with Christian practices.

The Muslim minority have been discriminated against by some Christians. Wide economic and social disparities between Muslim provinces and other parts of the country "contribute to persistent conflict," even as peace talks continue. Conversion of Christians to Islam is most typical among those who worked in an Islamic country. This is largely because conversion brings social and economic benefits while abroad. Many of these "converts of convenience" remain Muslims upon their return and are known collectively as "Balik Islam."

Asean's mixed track record must be measured against standards that member-countries have adopted. Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for example, provides: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

That calls for an end to brutality, whether Burmese *tatmadaw* beating monks or Abu Sayyaf beheading fallen Marines in the name of Islam. The more subtle denials, whether by economic pressure or laws, that lock out other faiths remain to be rooted out.

In Asean, the "four freedoms"—worship, speech, assembly and the press—remain elusive but valid ideals.

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

## Finally, Good vs Evil

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



I'VE HAD A PET THEORY OVER THE PAST years to explain why we Filipinos have grown apathetic and indifferent. Or indeed why our capacity to tolerate the most glaring iniquity and wrongdoing has grown to mind-boggling proportions. That is that we have not had a storyline of Good vs. Evil for some time now.

That was the storyline that ended a couple of tyrannies in the past. The storyline of Good vs. Evil during the first Edsa was patent. That was Cory vs. Marcos, Joan of Arc vs. Machiavelli, Hope vs. Despair.

The same storyline was there during the second Edsa, though far more subtly because it didn't carry any one face to represent Good. It was Erap's impeachment trial, a hugely popular melodrama or morality tale, which drove home the storyline of Good vs. Evil. As in Erap's own movies, you had *kontrabidas* in the form of *de-campanilla* lawyers in three-piece suits headed by retired Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and *bidas* in the form of underdog but heroic prosecutors, headed by Joker Arroyo before he turned to the Dark Side.

You need that storyline of Good vs. Evil to get people not just angry but resolved to right wrongs. You have a storyline only of Evil vs. Evil, or a battle between relative evils, and, Houston, you have a problem.

That is what I think has happened to us over the past so many years. What we've had is not a storyline of Good vs. Evil but of Evil vs. Evil. Not the least of the reasons for it is that until recently the main opposition to GMA's rule has come from Erap's camp, or what was widely perceived to be so. You have Evil vs. Evil instead of Good vs. Evil, you are not going to get people angry and raring to act, you are going to get people angry—and cynical.

How much more evil can you paint the current occupant of Malacañang? You don't need to do anything, she herself supplies the blackest hues for her portrait. Daily she bombards us with more and deeper instances of malefaction. But without a Good to light the dark, we do not rise to protest it, we only rise to, well, make text jokes about it.

How cynical we've become we can see in our reaction to recent events. Or, well, a visitor to this country for the first time will see it since we ourselves no longer seem able to. Over the past several weeks, newspapers and television have given us some of the most shocking images and sound bites ever to appear in any free press in any part of the world. We've just been regaled by a line that ranks up there among the most infamous quotes in this country: "Sec, may 200 ka rito." And in any case, what in God's or Satan's name was the Comelec chief doing brokering a deal in telecommunications?

Last week alone, our own newspaper shouted out in its headlines that the President, real or imagined, of this country just bribed the congressmen to not impeach her and that the Speaker of the House has enough mud on the same President, real or imagined, to mount MAD, or mutually assured destruction, if she should move to oust him. That is, after Ronaldo Puno was tagged as masterminding a fake complaint to immunize his boss from impeachment until next year.

This is shameful conduct, one we associate with thugs and hoodlums rather than a head of state and her people, which exposure has been enough to bring down governments in the past. At least during martial law, we bristled over these things—although these things could never appear in the muzzled press, they could only appear in the clandestine one, also called "Xerox journalism." Today, we see them openly in the free media and our reaction to this is—nothing. Or more text jokes.

But here's the part where after a long spell, I've finally become a little more hopeful and

optimistic. That is the luminous event that became our headline last Sunday. That is Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio telling the world he was given half a million pesos last Thursday after separate meetings with GMA. "I believe that the money came from Malacañang, (but) I also believe it is public money so I should be accountable for it and transparent about it... As a priest and public official, I should not lie."

What especially gladdens me about this is that since May this year, I've wondered if Panlilio could be thrust into the forefront of national life and be the Cory to GMA's Marcos. Certainly his showing in the last elections, which he turned into a spark of People Power, rallying the folk of Pampanga to end the reign of hated dark lords, or lords of sundry vices, and usher in a reign of decency suggests he has what it takes. That is a story of Good vs. Evil, if on a minor scale, which holds the potential of being replicated on a national level.

But far more than that, what makes me positively hopeful and optimistic about this is that what Panlilio has done is the perfect repudiation or refutation of the evil that plagues us. Whether he personally can be another Cory or not, he has shown us the face of Good that can lead to big and astonishing things. What is the one thing that most characterizes this regime? It is its capacity to lie. No, more than that, it is its capacity to live a lie. That has been driven deep into our brains, like a dentist's drill on cavities, over the last few weeks in particular, not least in Romulo Neri's fear and trembling at the prospect of divulging what he knows and all he knows.

And what has Panlilio done over the week-end? He has told the truth. In one simple, quiet, unobtrusive gesture, he has brought a battering ram pounding on the ramparts of falsehood. He has brought light to shine blindingly on pitch dark. He has brought air bursting through to people trapped under the rubble. That biblical injunction may yet prove awesomely prophetic in these dark times, in this dark place.

The truth shall set you free.

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## Those whose effigies are burned together

I'M HEARTENED TO READ THE ASSURANCE OF the chief of the Presidential Management Staff, Cerge Remonde, last Sunday that President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia "have vowed to keep the ruling coalition intact in the wake of intrigues hounding them." I have no reason to doubt Remonde's pronouncement, as he's very close to GMA, and I have known him for a long time. It's also the most logical political move. I have always said that GMA and JDV should remain united as a political team for the sake of the country and their party. In fact, I like to quip that those whose effigies have been burned together over issues, such as the expanded VAT, let no politico put as under.

The problem is that so much intrigue abounds. Right in the Palace, many hotheads are trying to drive a wedge between them, for agendas of their own. This is lamentable and the two leaders should rise above all the intrigue and maintain their political unity, for as Lakas stalwart Heherson Alvarez put it, the GMA-JDV teamwork has seen the most significant legislative programs passed by Congress. Few legislators can push them the way JDV has done, he said, adding that the latter's international stature is unparalleled in the chamber.

I should add that despite all the intrigue, JDV has remained loyal to GMA, if only from long-standing habit. Last week, for instance, he urged visiting members of the Spanish Parliament at a luncheon he tendered for them, as well as Spanish Ambassador Luis Arias, to finish the negotiations between the two governments for the reconstruction of Intramuros. He noted that this project can now be financed through the conversion of RP debt to equity, as newly authorized in a Spanish legislation. It would be a fantastic cap to the state visit to Spain of President Arroyo if the Intramuros reconstruction project could be signed by her and the Spanish prime minister, JDV said.

An interesting angle was raised by the opposition last weekend regarding the delegation by

### POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



Speaker de Venecia to Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar of the ministerial duty of endorsing the flawed Pulido impeachment complaint to the justice committee. Reps. Rufus Rodriguez and Ronaldo Zamora said this authority delegated by the House to the Speaker cannot be delegated further to "an agent." The opposition plans to challenge this before the Supreme Court. What's interesting about this plan is that the Court could actually end up throwing back the Pulido complaint to JDV's office.

House members say the Speaker is so averse to endorsing this poorly crafted complaint because it implicates him as well as his son and GMA all in one three-page document. News reports said JDV's earlier plan was to first investigate the allegations of Rep. Crispin Beltran that a Palace functionary had offered him and other endorsers of Pulido's complaint a few millions each (but why would this factious choose Beltran who can't keep his mouth shut on anything?). Under the rules, the Speaker has 10 session days to endorse a complaint. That seemed fine, as it's no secret that JDV's political allies do not like this weak complaint as it would preempt any plan by them to file a more serious complaint in case their leader is ousted. But last Thursday afternoon, JDV suddenly went ahead and authorized Del Mar to endorse the Pulido complaint to the committee, reportedly upon pressure from the Palace, to protect GMA from a second complaint.

If the Supreme Court tosses the complaint back to JDV's camp, some pundits think that far from being just a driftwood, it could acquire new life in the turbulent shoals of the House. In fact, it seems to have already acquired new life.

Yesterday the House minority, numbering about 30, suddenly decided to enter the picture and support the Pulido complaint, possibly to strengthen it. This fact now becomes material to JDV's hold on the speakership. Now, more than ever, the political union with GMA has to hold, for it was JDV who stopped two previous impeachment attempts.

Congress veterans attest that since time immemorial, the practice has been for the incumbent administration to summon the lawmakers on the eve of a recess and hand them some funds, out of gratitude for their support and to give help for their programs and projects. One lawmaker told me that the funds given out last Thursday to House members and local officials constituted financial help for the barangay elections, inasmuch as the officials are also expected to support their local leaders in the barangay elections. This is a tradition that has gone on for so long, a part of our political culture, said this lawmaker, and anyone denying having received it is a hypocrite.

The concert last Sept. 13 at the Crowne Plaza, featuring singer George Sison Tagle and a bevy of other talents, including the new male singing group Cinco Angeles, for the benefit of the Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation was enormously successful. It helped raise funds for our financial benefit program for the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action as well as the families of those severely wounded in combat. But ASK's funds remain insufficient because of the number of soldiers who perish in action, and so we continue to solicit funds for our financial assistance to the widows and orphans. We're fortunate that producer Beth Sison Tagle of Newsmakers Inc. has again made ASK the beneficiary of another concert on Saturday, Oct. 27 at Teatrino in Greenhills. This concert features entirely Cinco Angeles, which is often referred to as the local version of the Italian group Il Divo. Tickets are inexpensive. For particulars, call Rose at 911-5615, 438-7100 or Beth Tagle at 0917-5088-858.

## The food we eat

### AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



heading the BCP as president and CEO is the current dean of the UP College of Public Health and a professor of medical microbiology and immunology, has spent the last seven or eight years "going around the country, including school assemblies and community gatherings, on an information campaign to upgrade the level of understanding of all the stakeholders" about biotechnology. She finds a great level of curiosity among her audiences, "especially among students" who have heard about GMOs but find little by way of answers. But she says she has also encountered "a very strong anti-genetic modification" mind-set in her travels, an attitude that puts "ideology before science."

BCP was founded in the mid-1990s to advocate "for the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology." It is a multi-sectoral coalition of, among others, scientists, teachers, students, farmers, clergy and media. Its "founding father," Dr. Benigno Peczon, spearheaded the organization to ensure the benefits of biotechnology enrich not just scientists, technologists and farmers, but also help secure a constant food supply and good health for the Filipino public.

ONE thing the BCP officers wished to stress when we met for lunch was that they would not be party to the approval of food or food products that pose threats to public health or welfare.

"We have a regulatory system that works to ensure safety," says Dr. Halos, recalling how applications to regulatory bodies are further vetted by independent experts, mostly from the private sector and academe, whose identities are protected.

GMOs, adds Dr. Halos, are also checked against "a template that should be followed, with characteristics that we should look out for to ensure human, animal and environmental safety." Among the factors tested for human safety, she mentions allergens and other ingredients that may prove toxic.

"Genetic modification is very precise," notes Dr. Barzaga, noting how scientists transplant a specific gene to address a specific problem in a particular organism, such as insect infestation or rapid maturation. BCP information material notes that in traditional agricultural techniques, "when two plants are crossbred, with each having thousands of genes, all the genes from both plants get jumbled up. This presents a problem, as the plant offspring may express both desirable and undesirable traits of the parent plants." With modern genetic modification, however, "farmers can now select a specific trait from any plant and move it into the genetic code of another plant."

"THERE are many other things to fear in foods than their being subject to genetic modification," insists Dr. Halos.

Among these factors, she says, are food coloring, especially red food coloring, which has been linked to cancer; hormones in animal feed which, unlike genetic modification, "can be transferred not just to the animals that eat the feed, but also the humans who consume these animals;" additives that pose health threats such as hypertension, and kidney and liver disease; and even pesticide residue in vegetables, which can prove toxic.

Even organically-grown food, touted as the "safe" and "healthy" alternative can pose risks, such as bacteria carried in the manure used by organic farmers. "And there is no regulation of organic foods," Dr. Halos points out.

Ranged against the risk potentials of GMOs, says Dr. Halos, such ingredients pose far more immediate dangers to consumers. "So GMO pa rin ako," declares Dr. Halos, "at least with them we know that they have been tested and scrutinized."

## Ed's 'first test'

moral divide. "Among Ed," as the Catholic priest is known in Pampanga, said much of the feedback he himself received tended to be positive. The INQUIRER's follow-up story the other day, a round-up of reactions mainly from Pampanga, followed the same trend. The only one who urged that the money be returned to Malacanang posthaste was a career politician (in fact, one with ties to the President herself).

I welcome the controversy, for two reasons: It forces us to look upon our engagement in politics as a series of moral choices, rather than (to borrow a term of art from theology) a fundamental option, reached once and decided for all time. And it allows us to understand a specifically Catholic approach to making moral decisions.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers a three-part framework: "The morality of human acts depends on: the object chosen; the end in view or the intention; [and] the circumstances of the action." Of these three "sources" of morality, the payola case easily passes the standard of the last two: The intention in receiving is to use the money for the benefit of the poor; the circumstances of acceptance tell us that no conditions were imposed, no attempt to hide was made. It is the first source, the object itself, that is problematic. As Among Ed himself said, in analyzing what he called his "first test" as priest-turned-governor, he will not receive money from justice or other crimes. His decision to receive the Palace money and put it to good use, therefore, depends on the (perceived) nature of the funds. Now, whether the funds are the fruits of a crime or not, on that issue reasonable people can disagree.

What is the cost of Malacanang's blithe bribe-giving culture? An unlikely answer may be found in the World Bank's under-appreciated attempt to quantify "intangible capital," titled "Where is the Wealth of All Nations?" Bribes equal loss of trust in public institutions, equals decrease in national wealth. You could look it up.

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## First flight

I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY FIRST AIRPLANE RIDE.

In the middle of October last year, on a day when the sun was hot and the sky was blue, I found myself bragging to my co-workers about my coming three-day trip to Manila. What was there to be excited and proud about? I was taking an airplane!

I know it's too small a thing to brag about for most people, but it was the fulfillment of a childhood dream for me. When I was a kid, all I could do was scream, jump and wave every time an airplane flew above our neighborhood. Now, I was going to be inside one!

That day I was happy, perhaps the happiest I had ever been in my life. I imagined being a thousand feet away from the earth and a thousand feet closer to heaven. I would see people reduced to the size of ants, houses like boxes, and mountains like pimples on a face. I was happy. It just felt so good.

To tell you about my first airplane ride, let me begin at the waiting area of the Iloilo Airport. Of course in there, there was nothing for me to do but wait. My flight was at 5:45 p.m., but I was there at 4 o'clock. The woman at the ticket center said I had to be at the airport one hour before departure, so I was there with plenty of time to spare. I checked in my baggage and proceeded to sit in one of the chairs lining the waiting area.

I had fun looking at the local and foreign passengers carrying their big bags. An old Filipino vampire movie was being shown on the TV set hanging down from the ceiling. Had I been 10 years younger, I would have been glued to the set, but growing up brought a lot of changes.

I noticed a newspaper left on the seat in front of me. I reached over and began reading it. Then I finished the quote quiz, the word search, but not the crossword puzzle (I never finish a crossword).

I waited for my flight, but I wasn't bored. To my left, were glass walls that showed the runway and the gray sky. It had gotten a little dark, and there was a threat of rain. At 5 o'clock, a plane arrived, but it was not ours. That was the first time I ever got so close to an airplane. I marveled at its beauty. Its nose looked like the long neck of a bottle or a bottle-nose dolphin or maybe a goose reaching for the sky.

It grew a lot darker and then the rain started to fall. The passengers got off under big umbrellas. They were all in a hurry, as if a single arrow of rain would slay them.

Our airplane arrived, and by then the rain had turned into a drizzle. I didn't need an umbrella. The little arrows hit my hair, my shoulders, my skin, but I barely noticed them. I didn't even notice that my shoes were already wet in the shallow puddle the rain had made in the pavement. How could I, when I was walking towards my dream?

It wasn't hard finding my seat. It was beside the window, as I had requested. Sitting there, I felt like I was inside a bullet and I could pierce through anything—clouds, rainstorms, even buildings. I felt invincible.

A stewardess began to give safety instructions like how to use the seatbelt and what to do in case of emergency. I listened very carefully but when I looked around, I noticed that I was the only one listening to her. Some passengers had gone to sleep, others were reading, and still others were talking quietly. Well, it was my first time to take a plane, and I didn't want to die.

A few more minutes passed, and the airplane began to move slowly, preparing for takeoff. I could see the dark runway and the lights of the city crawling in the distance. Suddenly I felt the plane running at full speed and I felt my body being tilted backwards as the plane soared to the sky, an eagle in flight. I couldn't describe my feeling during those first few seconds of being separated from the ground. It felt weird—a nice, weird feeling. I was flying, with my wings outspread out there in the rain. At last!

Outside the window, I could see Iloilo City like I had never seen it before. Up there in the air, it looked like the constellations had been gathered together in one place. The long highways lined with streetlights formed a slingshot of lights and the cars looked like speeding bulbs. It was spectacular. A city of lights. A fireworks show. Amelia Earhart was right. There is more beauty up there than anywhere else.

Sitting by the window, I felt the urge to get a pen, a blank sheet of paper, and begin writing. But I ignored it. Instead, I began to imagine. I was flying, soaring over green mountains and endless fields, pushing through cottony clouds, crossing nations and continents. At that moment, I was living my dream.

But all good things must come to an end. Most are sad endings and they break our hearts. Yes, my first taste of flight ended after an hour. As the plane touched ground again, I realized that dreaming isn't bad after all. Small dreams, big dreams, impossible dreams, nonsense dreams, childish dreams, it doesn't really matter at all. What's important is that you dream, and experience the priceless happiness when you finally have that dream in your grasp.

Most of the time, you have to wait for your dreams to come true. But great things come to those who are willing to wait.

As I walked out of the arrival area with one bag slung over my shoulder and a bigger one in my right hand, I had a wide grin on my face. I was eager to experience the adventures that lay ahead. I was excited to have other dreams come true.

Sonny Tolentino III, 22, is a third year psychology student at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, Miag-ao Campus.

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### THEY SAID

#### Sabotage

"The human infrastructure that we have at the GSIS sucks... There may be some personnel sabotaging our efforts because they do not like what we are doing now."

—Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia, apologizing for "glitches" in the delivery of services to GSIS members

IF FILIPINOS ARE WORRIED ABOUT MODIFIED foods, say officers of the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines, then it's way too late.

That's because since birth we've been nourished on a diet rich in *patis*, *toyu*, *bagoong*, *bura*, *taho*, *tokwa*, not to mention cheese, wine, bread and other foods that have undergone some form of modification. Dr. Saturnina Halos, the coalition's research director, says food modification is "the use of living materials to produce or change food," such as the use of fermentation to change salted fish into *patis*, soy beans into *toyu* or soy sauce, or milk to cheese.

But I don't think it's really *patis* and the like that's got other groups, most notably Greenpeace, railing against biotechnology. As the BCP officers clarify, biotechnology covers three classifications of food modification: traditional, such as the use of fermentation to alter the taste and application of some foods; borderline, which combine the use of familiar methods with the assistance of new organisms and technologies; and genetic modification, which involves the artificial insertion of genes from similar or entirely different organisms into another organism to create new and different plants, foods or other living things.

It's the last classification, genetically modified organisms or GMO, that has sparked debate worldwide. Because genetic engineering involves "the human mediated artificial transfer of genes or gene fragments from one organism to another," the resulting organism is not just a cross-bred or altered organism, but an entirely new and different one. Activists say GMOs have the potential of overwhelming "natural" forms, permanently changing the characteristics not just of specific organisms, but of entire species.

Others likewise question the ultimate impact of GMOs on those who ingest them. Since the technology is so new, they say, no one knows how a steady diet of GMOs, not so farfetched given how prevalent genetic modification has become in agro-industry and food processing, could affect the health of consumers.

DR. NINA Gloria Barzaga, who aside from

## Beyond black and white: Among

AT THE 2ND INQUIRER BRIEFING LAST WEEK, anthropologist and INQUIRER columnist Michael Tan argued that the secondary school setting should be considered an educational "ecotone"—that is to say (in layman's language, cribbed from the dictionary) a transition area between two biological communities. His point, at least as this layman understood it: The tension between the different ecosystems can be responsible for leaps in evolution. In education reform, much attention has been placed on the basic and the tertiary levels. But we might just get more of the results we need if we devote more attention to what happens in high school.

I could not help but notice that Sen. Joker Arroyo's rejoinder to the INQUIRER story on the Senate's Sept. 26 executive session was divided, like Gaul, into three parts. The first was solid and factual (narrating the sequence of events), the second watery and speculative (impugning the motives of the editors) and the third gaseous and deceptively ingenious (taking the newspaper to task for publishing information "in the teeth of the declared confidentiality of the Senate proceedings").

Perhaps the senator misunderstands the situation, but surely he is not suggesting that reporters confine themselves only to official versions of events. That would make the media an adjunct of the government. As then Associate Justice Reynato Puno wrote in his stirring dissent on the Jurado case a dozen years ago: "As agent of the people, the most important function of the press in a free society is to inform and it cannot inform if it is uninformed. We should be wary when the independent sources of information of the press dry up, for then the press will end up printing 'praise' releases and that is no way for the people to know the truth."

If he is up to it, the famous human rights lawyer (definitely no stranger to this paper's editors) may want to read an instructive post by Jalleen Jimeno on PCL's pioneering blog. There, two former Senate reporters and an ex-senator discuss the long, leaky tradition of Senate execu-

### NEWSSTAND

John Nery



tive sessions. "You cannot blame the journalist for pursuing the story," Jimeno quotes Rene Saguissag as saying. "It's enterprise."

All this talk of confidential sources reminds me of what we can call the Law of the Disgruntled, and sends me back to my dusty copy of "The Kingdom and the Power," Gay Talese's anecdote-driven history of The New York Times. Scotty Reston, the columnist, earned a Pulitzer Prize for a series of behind-the-scenes stories on the founding of the United Nations. His insider knowledge riled the delegates drafting a blueprint of the UN, leading them to accuse each other of leaking the information. As it turned out, the crucial documents came from the Chinese delegation, the one party dissatisfied with the proceedings.

Reston's lesson for enterprising journalists: "You should always look around for the guys who are unhappy."

The Palace payola accepted and reported by Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio presents us with what educators would call a teaching moment. As I understand it, he received P500,000 in a paper bag in Malacanang, as he was on his way to board his car. He hesitated, but eventually accepted the money. "I have reasons to believe that the money came from the public coffers since it was being handed by this man from Malacanang. Since that was public money and it belonged to the people, I decided to take it and use it in a beneficial way," he said. He also immediately reported the incident.

The report has kicked up a storm of controversy, with no lack of advocates on either side of the



## A country in desperate search of the heroic

"UNHAPPY THE LAND THAT IS IN NEED of heroes," said Bertolt Brecht, the famous German playwright. If Brecht is right, then the Philippines is indeed an unhappy land. It is so much in need of heroes that it searches under every rock for heroes. It also explains why Filipinos practically go into hysterics in exaltation of Manny Pacquiao. Truly in the field of boxing, he is one of our greats and one of the world's greats. But aren't we overdoing it? After all, in sports, it is the number of medals won, not just a solitary victory, that accords prestige to a country.

We elevate our overseas Filipino workers as modern-day heroes which they might well deserve. But in doing so, we demote the humble farmer, fisherman, waiter, doctor, nurse, engineer, street sweeper who stays despite starvation wages to build and feed the nation. Hence the local Filipino is conditioned to stand in awe of every *balik-bayan* simply because he or she earns in

dollars. Every waiter, taxi driver or janitor who returns a wallet is lionized as if honesty is a rare virtue among Filipinos. In fact, Filipinos have been known for their honesty since pre-Spanish times. Just ask Rizal.

Self-made billionaires are worshipped without regard as to how they made their money. Celebrities are elected to public office regardless of their qualification. We thank government employees for just doing their duty, such as serving without asking for a tip, even though properly we should commend those only who perform a "service beyond the call of duty" and without expectation of a reward.

So why is there such a frantic search for "heroes"? Is it because Filipinos feel that they have failed as a nation and they need "heroes" to boost their self-respect? Even an innocent joke in the TV series "Desperate Housewives" looked for a while like it had triggered a Filipino "revolt" against their idols, the Americans, even though such "re-

volt" was aimed only at a mindless television series, and not at America's tight control of our economic policies and political processes that inevitably keep us poor. An entry in a British dictionary defining "Filipina" as a "maid" also triggered a revolt against the "mother country" of our "mother country." Perhaps if we stop exporting maids as if they were commodities, such impressions would stop.

Seriously, we can best refute and avoid foreign slurs if we put our house in order, enable all of our citizens to have a decent living right in our country, eliminate their dependency on foreign employers and end our mendicancy to foreign governments—just like the Malaysians, Singaporeans and Chinese have done—and then people in the rest of world will respect us without us begging them to do so.

—MANUEL R. ALMARIO,  
malmario@yahoo.com

## Government losing the war on hunger

A NEW SWS SURVEY ON HUNGER REVEALED that more Filipinos had nothing to eat at least once in the last three months. That is an indication that the government has lost its "war on hunger."

The war on hunger declared by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last March was a sham, even a scandal. Billions of pesos belonging to the people went down the drain, that is, spent with no accomplishments to show. Worse yet, last September, without subjecting the previous allotment to accounting and assessment, there was the announcement that another P3.3 billion will be set aside to fund the "Food for School Program."

The program is obviously a failure. Congress must review its mechanics and look into how its budget has been spent. The National Broadband Network (NBN) is worth P15 billion and draws media prime time and front page. The anti-hunger budgets of P1 billion last March and P3.3 billion this September pale in comparison, but they are no less important because they directly affect the poor.

As a "band-aid solution" to a crisis that needs major surgery, the government's an-

ti-hunger program, from the very beginning, was bound to fail. The free meals and cheap medicine that the government supposedly made accessible to the poor hardly scratched the surface of the hunger problem; for hunger is rooted in the flawed policies on wages, jobs and debt. The cheap labor policy, layoffs due to factory closures and automatic debt appropriation all combine to deny the workers and the poor their daily bread. For example, the present minimum wage of P362 in the National Capital Region is not even half the P786 cost of living in the metropolis.

We call for an economic relief package that includes legislated wage hike, tax exemption for workers earning below the cost of living, subsidies for basic goods and services, amendments to the labor code to protect jobs, repeal of the law on automatic debt payments and realignment of savings to fund socialized housing as well as livelihood and social programs.

—MANING OLBINA, internal vice president, Zone One Tondo Organization, Block 31 Lot C 1-3 Maya-Maya St., Phase 2 Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas, MM

## Protecting news sources a key journalistic duty

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS OF THE Philippines expresses utmost concern over the moves of some senators to cite a reporter for contempt of the Senate should she refuse to reveal her sources, have a newspaper investigated and, worst, amend or repeal the law protecting confidential news sources.

The INQUIRER last Sept. 30 published a story quoting unnamed sources describing how Sen. Joker Arroyo reportedly blocked the testimony of former Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri during the Senate close-door hearing. Juliet Labog-Javellana wrote the story.

Arroyo filed a resolution seeking to investigate the INQUIRER for publishing the report. Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Francis Escudero supported Arroyo's resolution. Enrile went further and suggested that the reporter be cited for contempt unless she revealed her sources.

This is intimidation and a violation of the principles of press freedom. This is unacceptable.

Enrile also urged the repeal or amendment of Republic Act 53 or the Sotto Law that protects the publisher, editor, columnist or duly accredited reporter of any newspaper, magazine or periodical of general circulation from being compelled to reveal their sources.

The Sotto Law, also known as the Press Freedom Law, is aimed precisely to protect press freedom and keep irate politicians from intimidating journalists and their sources.

Protection of confidential sources of information is also an obligation of the journalists and it is key to getting informants to come forward. This is particularly important in uncovering, among others, corruption in government.

If the Press Freedom Law is repealed or weakened, sources would be deterred from coming forward and the public would remain uninformed about vital matters.

The NUJP supports Labog-Javellana and the INQUIRER in their decision not to reveal the identities of the sources.

The fact that these shameful actions are being initiated by senators, who should know that the protection of the journalists' sources is an essential part of press freedom, makes those action even more reprehensible.

—JOE TORRES JR., chair,  
ROWENA PARAAN, secretary general,  
National Union of Journalists  
of the Philippines, 105-A Scout Castor St.,  
Quezon City

## DOJ's Gonzalez back in fighting mood

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ IS back! Houston, we have a problem!

Gonzalez is again in a good fighting mood and ready as always to "lash out at the critics" of his boss who "inspires" him to live longer. (INQUIRER 10/10/07) Wobbly, too old and too sick to walk on his own, this miserable excuse for a "justice secretary" continues to cling to his post like a barnacle.

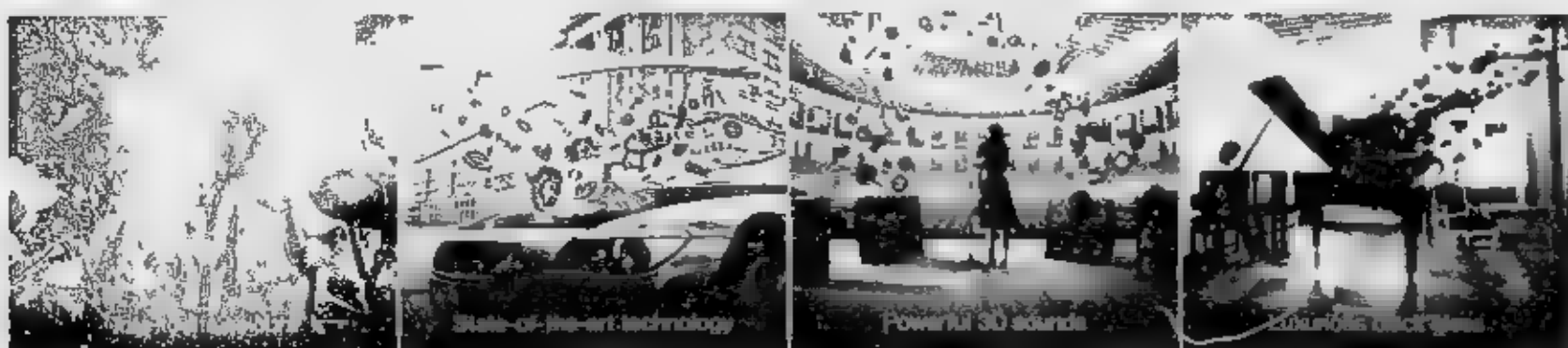
Impervious to public perception that he serves only the interest of President Macapagal-Arroyo and not the Filipino people, Gonzalez defies all sense of delicadeza, not to mention justice. He has no qualms jailing anyone who thinks his boss "bed, cheated and stole" the 2004 presidential election. He seems to think the country would fall apart without him, and President Arroyo can't thank him enough for being such a lapdog.

God help the Philippines!

—STEVE Y. VESPERA,  
styves888@yahoo.com

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## Farmers fail to win case in Palace



FEMALE policemen inspect one of several firearms seized during a raid in a Lipa City village by police. The home of a barangay chair in the city yielded unlicensed guns. NAPY LERMA

## Cops seize guns, bullets in Lipa City raid

**CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA**—Operatives of the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) of the Calabarzon police raided five houses in Lipa City on Monday and arrested five persons, including an incumbent barangay captain, for keeping unlicensed firearms.

Arrested were Barangay Malonglong chair Emmano Catibog,

his sons Rolando and Romulo, Frank Lupac and Tito Samonte, chief of the village watchmen.

Confiscated from them were three assault rifles, seven handguns, nine pieces of assorted gun parts and bullets.

Supt. Roger James Brillantes, RSOG chief, said operatives swooped down on the residences of the suspects at around

7:30 a.m. after receiving information that they owned several unlicensed firearms.

Brillantes said police believe the firearms will be used by Catibog and his supporters to ensure their victory in the Oct. 29 barangay elections.

"This operation is part of our efforts to ensure peaceful and orderly elections. You can expect

more raids in the next few days," Brillantes told the *INQUIRER*.

He said the search on the houses of Catibog and his sons were covered by search warrants.

He said the suspects, who are now detained at the RSOG temporary jail at this camp, did not resist arrest. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—FOR THE SECOND time, the Office of the President has sided with the powerful Quisumbing business family over a land redistribution controversy involving their estate in Sumilao, Bukidnon.

The Office of the President junked a petition of the Sumilao farmers to revoke a standing order allowing the conversion of the Quisumbing Estate from purely agricultural to agro-industrial use.

### Torres order

The first time the Office of the President favored the Quisumbing family in the same dispute was in 1996 when then executive secretary Ruben Torres allowed its land conversion, providing an escape for the estate's coverage from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The so-called "Torres order" came about amid strong opposition from then agrarian reform secretary Ernesto Garilao, then President Fidel Ramos' supposed alter ego for agrarian reform matters.

### Protest march

This developed as the farmers pushed through with the 60-day protest-march from their village in Sumilao to Manila in a "continuing search for justice."

In a three-page decision dated Oct. 3, 2007 signed by deputy executive secretary Manuel Gaite, the Office of the President gave credence to the argument of the Norberto Quisumbing Sr. Management and Development Corp. (NQSMDMC) that the petitioners "lack legal standing."

NQSMDMC owns the disputed 144-hectare estate located in Barangay San Vicente in Sumilao town which was awarded to 137 Higaonon farmers in September 1995 through CARP.

But the award was taken back within six months as the NQSMDMC obtained the land use conversion order by March 1996. Gaite signed the decision "by au-

thority of the executive secretary."

### Farmers' arguments

The decision recognized that the Sumilao farmers' arguments "seem plausible" but that it was, however, dismissible as they "are not real parties in interest."

The Oct. 3 decision was in response to a Nov. 30, 2006 petition of the farmers after an earlier dismissal by the DAR secretary of a similar petition.

The Sumilao farmers filed a petition for revocation of the conversion order on Nov. 3, 2004 with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) secretary.

On Oct. 27, 2006, Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman dismissed the petition, saying it has no jurisdiction over the matter as it was the Office of the President that allowed the conversion in March 1996.

### Farmers' appeal

In their petition, the farmers argued that the DAR erred in saying it has no jurisdiction over the matter, and hence should have resolved the question of the conversion order's revocation.

As early as June 20, 2005, the DAR's northern Mindanao regional office has reported to the DAR secretary the non-compliance by NQSMDMC of the conversion.

The memorandum cited an ocular inspection that shows "there has been no development in the NQSMDMC property which purports to be in line with the conversion application of the landowner."

Under DAR rules, the NQSMDMC's non-compliance is ground for revoking the conversion order and subjecting the estate again to CARP coverage. *Ryan D. Rosaura, Inquirer Mindanao*

## NEWSBRIEF

### Rebs attack 2 more cell sites

**LEGAZPI CITY**—Communist guerrillas attacked two more cell sites of a leading telecommunications firm in Camarines Sur and Sorsogon, police said.

On Sunday at about 2 p.m., New People's Army rebels fired at a Globe cell site in Maga-anes, Sorsogon. No one was injured.

Police said it was unusual that the rebels did not touch a Smart cell site located just about 300 meters from the Globe cell site.

On Saturday, at about 1 p.m., another Globe cell site was burned in Libmanan, Camarines Sur also by NPA rebels.

Police said the rebels were demanding revolutionary taxes from Globe. *Ephraim Aguilar, with a report from Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### 2 guerrilla suspects nabbed

**LEGAZPI CITY**—Two suspected members of the New People's Army were arrested in an encounter with elements of the Philippine National Police in Sorsogon Sunday, a report reaching Camp Gen. Simeon Ola here said.

The report said policemen conducting checkpoint operations accosted a group of suspicious-looking men for a routine check in Barangay Looaban, Bulusan town in Sorsogon at 11:30 a.m.

The men, however, fired at the police, prompting the law enforcers to return fire until the two suspects surrendered while the others were able to escape, it said.

The report identified the arrested suspects as Christopher Español, alias Ka Jerome, 23, resident of Barangay Union, Gubat town, and Jason Gaiso, alias Ka Jerry, 18, resident of Barangay Sta. Barabara, Bulusan town. *Joanna Los Baños, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### Comelec issues reminder

**COTABATO CITY**—Acting Commission on Elections chair Resurreccion Borra has reminded provincial, city and town pol. officials to disseminate resolutions pertaining to the Oct. 29 barangay and youth elections.

"It is imperative that candidates in the Barangay, and the Sangguniang Kabataan elections and the public in general are aware of the Comelec guidelines," said city election registrar Arian Mangelen.

Comelec Resolution 8230 pertains to the use of campaign and other propaganda materials of which a candidate is only allowed to spend P3 per voter.

Mangelen said poster sizes should not exceed two feet by three feet and must only be displayed within the designated common poster areas. *Charlie C. Sefiase, Inquirer Mindanao*

### Port project has no ECC

**D.MAGLETE CITY**—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has warned the Philippine Ports Authority that its ongoing reclamation project at the port area violated environmental laws.

Antonio Cañudo, the provincial environment and natural resources officer for Negros Oriental, reminded the PPA at a forum Thursday that an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) is needed before any reclamation project of environmentally-critical areas can push through.

The Philippine Ports Authority would reclaim 6,700 square meters behind the PPA office at a cost of P394 million for a container terminal. PPA Port Manager Noem Calderon said the reclamation project does not have an ECC and they have not applied for one.

*Alex Pal, Inquirer Visayas*

## House sets probe of PhilHealth claims

*By Nestor Burgos Jr.  
Inquirer Visayas*

**ILOILO CITY**—THE House of Representatives is set to conduct an investigation of alleged fraudulent and irregular claims filed before the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

Iloilo Rep. Janette Garin authored a resolution last week directing the appropriate committees of the House to conduct an inquiry on alleged irregularities in PhilHealth claims involving hundreds of millions of pesos.

The resolution, coauthored by representatives Ma. Rachel Arenas (Pangasinan), Paul Daza (Northern Samar) and Roilo Golez (Parañaque), was supported by 40 other lawmakers, Garin said.

The resolution noted that PhilHealth has yet to take concrete steps to initiate reforms although, last February 2005, an investigating team from the PhilHealth Western Visayas office already validated cases of alleged padding of claims and irregularities in the recruitment of patients for cataract operations charged to PhilHealth.

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# Panlilio to Palace: Tell truth on money

From page A1

an impeachment move against Ms Arroyo.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco had also previously admitted receiving monetary "gifts" from the Palace. Several other congressmen and governors made the same admissions but chose to remain unidentified.

"I am a priest ... I cannot lie," Panlilio, a Roman Catholic priest who defeated well-entrenched politicians in the May elections to become governor, said at the Pampanga capitol.

Asked if he was declaring war on Ms Arroyo, his province mate, the governor said: "I am not declaring war on anybody ... I am declaring war against untruth and lies."

## No to bribery

Panlilio, who first disclosed to the INQUIRER last weekend the handout he received on Thursday after attending a meeting in Malacañang, reiterated he took the money in the belief that he could use it for community projects in his province.

He stressed he would return the money to Malacañang "if this was given as a bribe."

Panlilio said it was Mendoza who handed the bundle of P1,000 bills in a paper bag to his chief of staff, who then turned it over to him.

The Pampanga governor said that initially he had erroneously told the INQUIRER that the money was handed him by a Malacañang functionary because everything happened so fast.

On the request of reporters, Panlilio showed the paper bag before media cameras and then he produced the money—P1,000 bills stacked in five bundles of P100,000 each.

"I did not think it was bribe money, otherwise, I would not have accepted it," Panlilio said, reading from a prepared statement.

## Letter to Malacañang

"I received it in good faith. I considered the money to have come from public funds, as it was given by Malacañang, and it will be used for public purpose."

Panlilio showed reporters a copy of a letter he was sending to Malacañang to acknowledge the receipt of the money and to request the name of the payer.

If the payer was identified, he said the provincial treasurer would

issue an official receipt for it.

The money, he said, would in the meantime be kept in the capitol's vault.

## Not a numbers game

In telling the truth, Panlilio said he was "not being self-righteous."

Speaking in Filipino and English, he said: "All of us have a conscience. I have a conscience and it is the voice of God. I opted to listen to my conscience."

Asked why many of those who attended the Palace meeting on Thursday were denying that they received anything, Panlilio said "Truth is not a numbers game."

"I have always believed that truth can be suppressed at the moment but in the finality, truth will come out," he said.

## Truth will snowball

"I also believe that once truth is set forth, the adherence to this truth will snowball and a critical mass of people will support (it)."

Mendoza, who confirmed that he too received P500,000, said he was also willing to attend any Senate investigation.

Mendoza said the paper bags containing the money intended for him and Panlilio were given by a "female staff in Malacañang"

shortly after he left the meeting of governors attended by Ms Arroyo.

He said he did not know the woman and he did not get her

## Two different accounts

Mendoza admitted it was he, not a male Palace staff, as Panlilio had said earlier, who handed the brown paper gift bag to Panlilio's chief of staff.

Mendoza, a provincial leader of the President's party, Kampi, said he was told by the woman. "These are for your community-based projects. Kindly hand the other one to Among Ed."

Mendoza gave a different account to the INQUIRER on Saturday.

Yesterday, Mendoza said he replied "No" to the INQUIRER's query on Saturday because what was asked of him was a "brown envelope."

## For barangay projects

He had also replied "No" when asked if he had received the same amount as Panlilio.

Mendoza yesterday said he accepted the money because he was told by the female staff that it could be used for "barangay projects."

He said he did not think of

the money as a bribe and that he believed he did nothing wrong when he took it.

Mendoza said he entrusted the money to Board Member Cornelio Santos, the president of the Liga ng mga Barangay in Bulacan, who confirmed he had custody of it.

## Arenas, too

Arenas, a member of Lakas-CMD, admitted she received money from Malacañang but said she had picked it up from the House of Representatives.

Arenas declined to say how much money she got and did not say what Malacañang office had told her about it.

"I was just told that there is something for me," she said.

Negros Oriental Gov. Emilio Macias admitted he received P200,000 after the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) meeting in Malacañang on Thursday.

But Macias said the money was not a bribe but was intended for the Oct. 29 meeting with governors to be held in his province for the launch of the Integrated Tax collection system (I-Tax), a project introduced by a German foundation.

The governor said he believed it came from the League of Provinces

of the Philippines and not from Malacañang because the one who handed him the money was a staff of the league's secretariat.

Macias dismissed allegations that the money was a bribe for them to support Ms Arroyo in the impeachment case against her since the governors could not do anything about the case.

## Allowance for Domogan

Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan yesterday admitted that he received "an allowance" on Thursday but not in Malacañang in the morning but in the House of Representatives in the evening.

Domogan, a member of the Lakas party, added that the P200,000 he received came from "the House through the Office of the Speaker," not from Ms Arroyo or Malacañang.

He said he was not present during the Thursday breakfast Ms Arroyo had with 190 congressmen.

He said there were many others like him who received their allowances at the House on Thursday evening. With reports from Carmela Reyes, *Inquirer Central Luzon*; Gabriel Cardinosa and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*; and Jhunnex Napallacan, *Inquirer Visayas*

# GMA men won't say where money came from

From page A1  
before the President.

As for the cash given to members of the House, Puno said: "Maybe, ask Speaker (Jose de Venecia Jr.)"

Some 190 members of the House and 48 governors were each handed P500,000 after they met in two separate batches with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is facing an impeachment complaint in connection with the scrapped \$329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

A number of mayors, who along with the governors met with the President, were also given cash but no amount has been reported.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he could not specu-

late on something he did not personally witness.

"I told you I wasn't there. What I know, I read in the media," said Ermita.

He said it was customary for local executives to bring folders containing their request for funding every time they visit the President.

## Illegal

Giving out money to officials at this time is illegal.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said Malacañang was prohibited from giving money to lawmakers and local government executives because of the election ban.

"We are under election ban. That [giving money] is illegal. The President can't just give

money to government officials," Andaya said.

The 45-day election period for the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls, scheduled for Oct. 29, started on Sept. 29.

Andaya said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), which is authorized by law to release money from the national treasury, did not make any releases that day.

"What we can release are allocations for salaries, regular maintenance and operations of our government offices... schools," he said.

Andaya said no funds were earmarked to "kill the latest impeachment move against the President."

Asked about envelopes or paper bags stuffed with money changing hands in Mala-

cañang's Heroes Hall and Music Room, Andaya said: "How would I know? I was not there."

He said all government disbursements must be accompanied by receipts, and that they must be first allocated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

He said handing out cash to lawmakers and local chief executives was not in the 2007 GAA, either.

## Private money

Asked whether private money was used, Andaya said: "I have no knowledge of that."

Whether the money came from public or private funds, Malacañang must explain, according to the United Opposition (Uno).

Uno demanded that the Arroyo administration disclose the source of the money that was dis-

tributed to local officials in Malacañang at a time when an impeachment complaint had just been filed against the President.

With the admission of at least three governors of receiving the "cash donations," Uno president Jejomar Binay, who is also mayor of Makati City, said the source of the money was a matter of utmost public interest.

If the funds were public, why didn't their disbursement go through official channels?

And if the funds were private, who were the donors?

"Disbursements are covered by vouchers, and the officials are made to sign an official document acknowledging receipt of the money," Binay said in a statement yesterday.

"Based on the statement of

(Pampanga) Gov. Ed Panlilio, the money was just handed to him by a Palace official, which is irregular if the money came from public funds," he said.

## Motive

If the money came from private sources, Binay said Malacañang ought to reveal who or what.

"Did the money come from Ms Arroyo or Mike Arroyo, or did it come from their businessmen friends?" he said.

In Lingayen, Pangasinan, former President Fidel Ramos said the distribution of money to local officials in Malacañang last week was "very bad, if it happened at all." With reports from DJ Yap in Manila; Gabriel Cardinosa and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

# Opposition in Senate, House demand inquiry

From page A1

deeper hole. If the funds were private, who provided them? Then it could be direct bribery if the intention was for local and congressional officials to do the President's bidding. In the case of the impeachment case, if public funds were used, malversation is the crime."

The purported monetary handouts at the Palace coincided with efforts by Ms Arroyo's supporters

in the House of Representatives to shield her from being impeached.

## Criminal gang

Lacson said it was appropriate to find out where the money distributed to congressmen and governors at the Palace on Thursday came from.

"No matter where you look at it, the timing and the context of where the money was given showed that it was meant to be

a bribe," he said.

Lacson said this was the reason "people are thinking this is a criminal syndicate masquerading as a government with its omerta (code of silence)."

Sen. Joker Arroyo said that while he believed that the "giving of money is wrong," he would not comment on the impropriety of the alleged payoffs given to congressmen and local officials.

Arroyo said the Senate could

not investigate the House due to "interdepartmental courtesy."

Talking with reporters, Arroyo said critics should first wait for the Palace to explain to the public the nature of the funds before making any sweeping charges.

Two opposition members of the House of Representatives called for a House probe into possible ethical violations by their broad-ministration colleagues who supposedly received P200,000 to

P500,000 during their breakfast meeting with Ms Arroyo.

Deputy Minority Leader Risa Honavaros-Baraquel of Akbayan and Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, however, differed on who should initiate the filing of a case against their colleagues.

"We, in Akbayan, are already preparing an ethics complaint," Baraquel told the INQUIRER.

"We, however, would also like our colleagues in the majority to

initiate an investigation ... They should come clean," she added.

Rodriguez said he believed the ethics complaint should come from a citizen outside the chamber as a matter of courtesy among fellow House members.

Both legislators were agreed ethical standards were violated when allies of Ms Arroyo in the chamber accepted the money at a time when an impeachment complaint was pending against her.

# Charter requires receipts, vouchers in all gov't spending

From page A1

auditors examine contracts, purchase orders, receipts and other documents of government transactions.

(The current General Appropriations Act allots P800 million to the Contingent Fund and P3.8 billion to the Office of the President.)

If recipients of government money are unable to issue receipts, they are required to sign vouchers, according to Samuel Sison, auditor of the Office of the President.

"For example, when the government extends financial assistance to needy people, they sign a voucher which should indicate the amount of money they received," he said.

What if a public official gives out money that he or she received as donation from a private person? Rolando Macale, director III of COA's public information office, said: "If a public official receives money in his capacity as a public official, the money becomes part of public

funds."

The Administrative Code of 1987 (Book VI, Section 42) states that "all money and property officially received by a public officer in any capacity or upon any occasion must be accounted for as government funds and government property."

It also states that government agencies should submit a quarterly report of all donations (in cash or in kind) to the Department of Budget and Manage-

ment, the Senate committee on finance, the House committee on appropriations and the COA.

If a public official fails to report receiving donations and authorizes the expenditure of the donated money (which has become part of public funds), he or she will be held liable.

Section 43 of the Administrative Code reads in part: "Every payment made in violation of said provisions shall be illegal and every official or employee authorizing or making such

payment, or taking part therein, and every person receiving such payment shall be jointly and severally liable to the government for the full amount so paid or received."

The guilty parties will also be dismissed from service, "after due notice and hearing by the duly authorized appointing official."

Under the Revised Penal Code, a public officer who misappropriates or permits another person to misappropriate public

funds or property worth between P12,000 and P22,000 shall suffer the penalty of reclusion temporal or imprisonment from 12 years and one day to 20 years.

For malversation of funds or property worth more than P22,000, the punishment is reclusion perpetua or imprisonment for at least 30 years.

Those guilty of malversation will also be disqualified permanently from holding public office.

# Bishop warns ex-priest on accepting Palace cash

From page A1

knowledge he was a recipient of the Palace grace and announced he would put it to use for the benefit of his barangays.

Cruz yesterday said on his blog there was no moral justification for receiving money that was being distributed ostensibly to buy loyalty to President Macapagal-Arroyo in the face of a new attempt to impeach her.

Claims that the largesse should be used for the poor and the coming barangay elections did not make it ethical for priests or politicians to accept it, according to the Lingayen-Dagupan prelate.

Turning to Panlilio's acceptance of the envelop, Cruz said:

"The fact that he is priest, it is worse that he did."

He said government officials should not be naïve in receiving money, particularly from Malacañang. The fact alone that the Palace is giving out bundles of money to local officials makes the whole transaction questionable, said Cruz.

"It is hard to think that the giver wouldn't expect something back. They [local officials] should be wary of what will be asked in exchange," said Cruz.

He said Malacañang was not particularly known for such generosity "without strings attached."

"The issue is how come they were the only ones who got it?

How come officials in the opposition did not get anything?" said Cruz on his website.

## Gross and callous

Cruz called the Arroyo administration "gross and callous" for buying the support and loyalty of regional and local public officials in order to prop up what he called the government's "miserable credibility and lost respectability."

"How corrupt and corrupting can an administration display itself by freely and liberally distributing millions of pesos to many of its minions as if it owned all the money in the country," Cruz said.

These actions continue to

muddle the distinction between right and wrong, virtue and vice, in the government, according to Cruz.

## Payoffs to clerics

The Arroyo administration's history of handing out payoffs is not confined to politicians. Priests and prelates have also been targets.

In July 2006, a Malacañang functionary handed out envelopes containing P20,000 to P30,000 to prelates at the Pope Pius XII Center as the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines debated a position it would take on a move to oust Ms Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo was then facing a

second impeachment attempt in connection with the "Hello Garci" wiretapping which the opposition said was evidence she stole the 2004 presidential election. Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing.

The CBCP later issued a statement saying it was not inclined to support the impeachment move at the time as a means of establishing the truth.

## Pagcor donations

In September 2005, three CBCP members were reported by the INQUIRER to have been offered cash donations of from P300,000 to P500,000 by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). The

checks were returned by Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Archbishops Angel Lagdameo and Paciano Alencio.

Pagcor was then reported as buying CBCP support for Ms Arroyo amid her continuing political problems.

In a January 2005 pastoral letter, the CBCP adopted "a collective policy to refrain from soliciting or receiving gifts from illegal and legal gambling so as not to promote a culture of gambling, and encourage church personnel and church institutions to refrain from doing the same, even when the objective may be that of helping the poor."



## Testimonial of Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia (ret.) after taking Boston C within one hour

### 1. Previous History

I discovered I had Type 2 Diabetes 3 years ago with my blood sugar level reaching more than 200. Medication was prescribed to control sugar level – a combination of Solosa and Metformin. Since the start of the medication, my blood sugar level is going up and down during the day.

### 2. First Encounter with Boston C

When I read in the Phil. Daily Inquirer a one page advertisement regarding herbal anti-cancer and anti-diabetes drugs, I took time out to visit Mr. Tony Agustin in 229 Macopa St., Barangay Maligaya, San Miguel, Tarlac City.

I was given on the spot medication, 3 glasses of Boston C.

My initial blood sugar level was - 9.6

15 minutes after drinking one glass - 8.8

15 minutes after drinking one glass - 7.6

15 minutes after drinking one glass - 6.4

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#### Nora Orampo, Stage 4 Breast, Liver, Ovary & Bone Cancer Survivor

My illness two years ago was breast cancer: Stage 3A when I was operated on. After two years, it spread to my liver, ovary and bones. I could not stand anymore. At St. Luke Hospital, they said that they have to remove my ovary, undergo RFA for my liver, and later on chemotherapy. I did not have my liver treated. The following day, I decided to just take cyeton S orally and by intravenously.

In six months, my liver was negative of cancer cells and my ovary was normal. Now, there is no more illness in my bones because of Boston C Herbal Products and intravenous treatment.



#### Raul Colunga Pancreatic and Liver Cancer Survivor

I was born and raised in Texas, USA and I am a retired military man. I was in the logistic field Saudi Arabia in January 2004. I went for an operation for gall stone, only to find out that I had cancer. I had ruptured cancerous tumors that spread through my body. When they told me I had three weeks to live, I went to Duke University in the US and underwent chemotherapy to get well again. And they told me I was at forth stage of pancreatic cancer and that there was no cure.

I underwent chemotherapy for eight months and the end result is that I became immune to chemotherapy. I read an article about the Philippines and about some patients who had been here and took Boston C. They said that the results were great and they told me about the good works that they had been doing here. Mostly, it was on the positive side. I decided to take a chance and came here to the Philippines and sought treatment.

On the first round of Boston C intravenous treatment, it seems like the result was positive for the most part. Not a hundred percent but there was quite a bit of improvement. I'm very glad about that. At least there was an improvement that wasn't there before. My tumor supposedly, according to the test, wasn't there anymore but I still have to take another test. They call it CT scan to make doubly sure that the tumor is completely gone. I still get some metastases in the liver but it has been reduced about 30% in a matter of thirteen days. I had been here in the Boston C Tarlac clinic for thirteen days and I followed the instructions they gave me. I drank the supplement they gave me and there was an improvement. Not a hundred percent but it shows vast improvement. I feel a little better and a little stronger and lost a little weight but I understood that because my appetite wasn't very good. By now, I'm gaining a little weight and I plan to come back for another treatment and I'm hoping that it will cure me completely. That is my hope.



#### Rodolfo Andaya Chronic Renal Failure survivor

I am Rodolfo Andaya, from Barangay Kaniyogan, Pasig. Two years ago I was told I had kidney failure. My doctor said, "This will require long term treatment". I was then told of the many options that I can choose from like major operation, kidney transplant which made me depressed then. I told myself that I was never going to get well. I felt pain in my stomach on many different occasions. I couldn't sleep. My weight really went down. Even my blood pressure went down. I then underwent dialysis for seven sessions and even had blood transfusion. My expenses were piling up and I felt that I couldn't hold any longer. Because of my predicament, I prayed all the time and everyday to the Almighty above. Then a friend of mine visited me and advised me to take Boston C. I then started taking Boston C after each meal. I noticed thereafter that there were "black" materials whenever I defecated. Now everything is normal including my urination. I still take Boston C because I think it will prevent any problems from recurring.



#### Helen Napiza 4th Stage Lung Cancer

"Three years ago, I had a mass in my lungs that was about the size of a golf ball. My doctor advised me to have a biopsy done but I opted not to have that done because somebody told me about Boston C. I underwent IV therapy using Boston C for one week and then oral therapy for 6 months. Afterwards, I underwent CT Scan, X-ray to find out if the mass is still there. All tests revealed negative with the help of Boston C."



#### Antonia Dotdot Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer

I am from Hongkong; and I have been a cancer patient since the year 2000. They operated on my left ovary. They removed it along with my appendix. But I did not undergo chemotherapy, that's why it metastasized to my right ovary. So they removed it. They should have removed both ovaries during my first operation. Anyway, I was already 50 years old. I was scheduled to have chemotherapy session but even after that, my cancer level was still high and I had a tumor in my liver.

The doctor wanted me to undergo six (6) sessions but I refused to do the chemotherapy. After that, my family including my husband accepted that my life will be short lived. We prayed and attended mass every day asking for a miracle for almost three (3) months. We even attended El Shaddai.

Then one day, my husband's assistant told him about Boston C herbal therapy. So I called Mr. Agustin, right away and I was admitted to the Boston C clinic in tarlac for two weeks. That was three (3) years ago, March 2003.

After the treatment, I went back to Hong Kong for another check up. My oncologist was surprised because my cancer level went down. Before Boston C, my cancer level was 77.6 after the fifteen (15) days intravenous treatment of Boston C, my cancer level went down to 34.8. the oncologist was surprised and asked me to bring him a bottle of Cyeton S. I stayed in Hong Kong for at least a year and then came back for my second Boston C treatment which was only for five (5) days because I felt all right. I brought a lot of Cyeton S, Ultimo and Boston C Plain to Hong Kong and Drank it religiously everyday.

This time is my third treatment in the clinic after the three (3) years. Now, my cancer level is only 26. That is only 6 point higher than the normal level which is 20. I am really getting better. It is very dramatic



#### Flordeliza Montejó Brain Cancer Survivor

A team from Boston C paid Mrs. Flordeliza Montejó, 58 years old, a visit in her home town in Orion, Batuan. Her daughter, Perlita Montejó, and caregiver, Julieta Garon reminisced how in 2003, Flordeliza was diagnosed to have brain cancer; and how she unfortunately could not be operated on. Due to this, the tumor grew and she went blind. She was very weak, had no appetite, was bedridden and almost paralyzed. She could not stand, let alone, walk. But somehow, her family found out about Boston C and brought her to the Tarlac clinic where Flordeliza was confined for ten days for an intravenous treatment to fast track her healing process. After this, she continued taking a prescribed dosage of Boston C herbal extracts orally for the next few months. Now, Flordeliza's brain tumor is completely gone. She has been cancer free for some years now, and it was very heart warming for the Boston C team to talk to her and to see her demonstrate a walk, and even mimic a dance. On her part, she must have been thrilled to see herself on the video monitor for the first time as the team played back her interview.



#### Topy Urbano, formerly insulin dependent diabetic

When Ultimo was introduced to me, I drank it but I still had my insulin injection, two times a day, in the morning and in the afternoon. After three months, I lessen my insulin intake. Then I consulted my doctor. He said my blood level is now normal.

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After three months, I went to see my doctor but I was not taking insulin anymore. The doctor said I was normal. From that time on, I never had insulin. I just drank Ultimo for maintenance. My blood sugar level is normal for eight months now. I think Ultimo was able to rehabilitate my pancreas.



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## 9M kids target of antimeasles drive

By Beverly T. Natividad

HOPING TO IMMUNIZE NINE MILLION children in one month, the Department of Health has started its free, door-to-door antimeasles immunization drive called "Knock Out Tigdas," a follow-up to its successful immunization campaign in 1998 and 2004.

Children aged 9 months to 4 years old can now avail of free measles immunizations from barangay health workers.

In a press briefing yesterday, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said he asked the help of local government officials to ensure that mass immunization would reach far-flung areas.

He said the DOH and local government units would also set up immunization centers, particularly in inaccessible areas and armed conflict zones, to ensure the widest coverage possible.

DOH data show that the priority areas for the 2007 mass immunization program are Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Laguna, Quezon, Pangasinan, Cebu, Zamboanga, Bohol, Sulu and Basilan.

The "Knock Out Tigdas" campaign is the DOH's "catch-up" program. They hope to reach out to children who missed the earlier programs and to prevent the possible reemergence of measles, in line with the goal of eliminating measles deaths by 2008.

Duque said there were measles cases reported in Manila in November 2006, in Bulacan in January 2007, in Zamboanga City in February 2007, in Basilan in April 2007, and in Sulu in June 2007.

"We now have 101 confirmed cases since January this year up to September and this is just the tip of the iceberg because these are only the hospital admitted cases," said Duque in a statement.

In 2004, the implementation of a follow-up "Ligtas Tigdas" immunization campaign covered about 17 million children (aged 9 months to 8 years old) which resulted in a drastic reduction in measles cases.

To meet the international commitment to eliminate measles in the Philippines, at least 95 percent of children should receive two doses of the measles vaccine. DOH data show that only 85 percent of Filipino children are covered by the measles immunization program.

## Stop cutting trees, Sibuyan miners told

By TJ Burgonio

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO ATIENZA has stopped small-scale miners from cutting trees in Sibuyan island and banned the rest from felling trees anywhere else in the country.

Atienza yesterday suspended permits issued by his predecessor Angelo Reyes, who is now energy secretary, to three small-scale miners in late July to cut down at least 100,000 trees in San Fernando town in Sibuyan.

He also prohibited the department from further issuing similar permits.

Atienza said the permits granted to the Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corp. (SNPDC), All Acacia Resources Inc., and the Sun Pacific Resources Philippine Inc. were "anomalous."

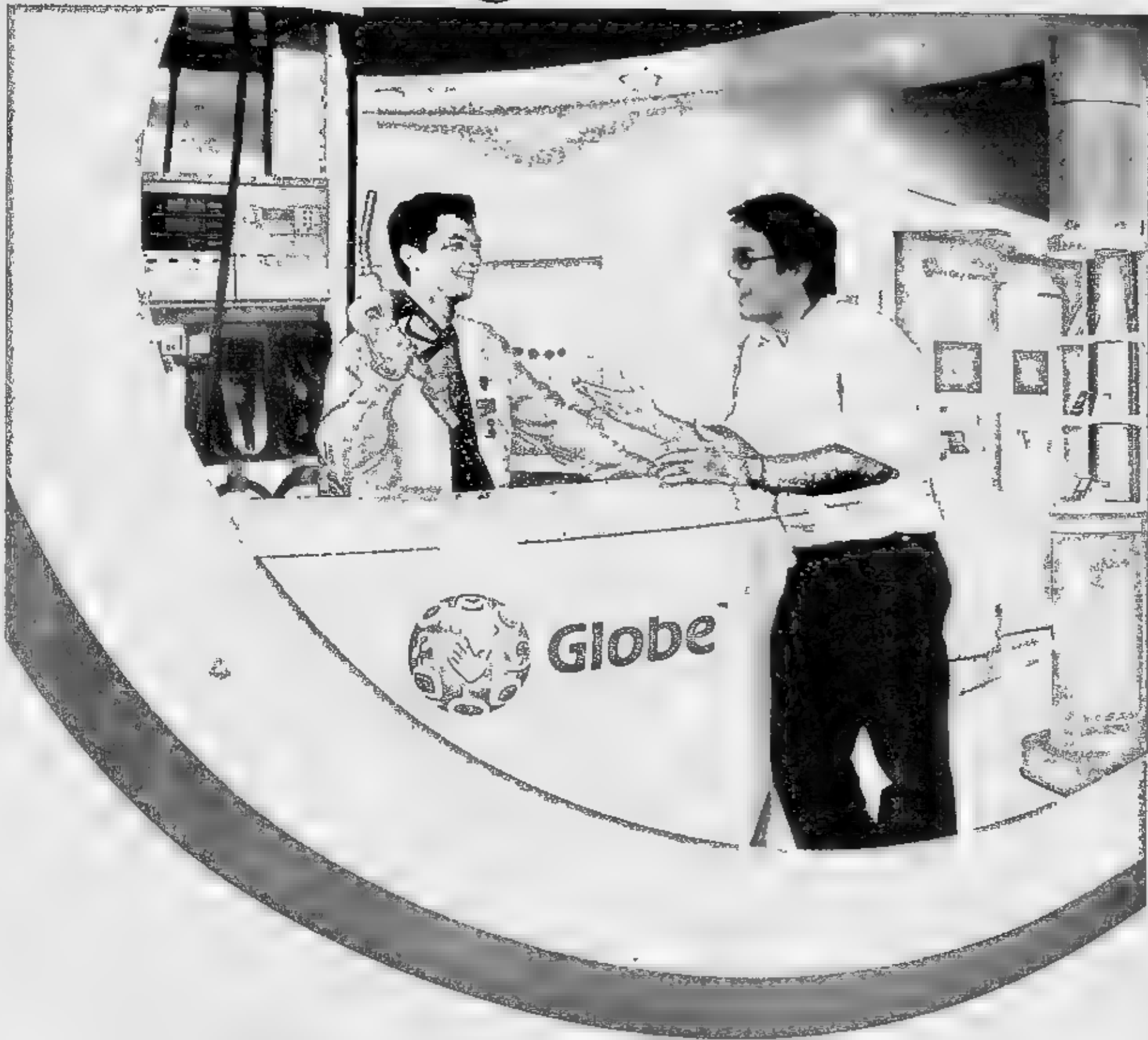
Small-scale miners should not be granted permits to cut trees in the first place, he stressed in a briefing.

"We want to do justice for Councilor Armin Marin who offered his life to protect the environment," Atienza told reporters.

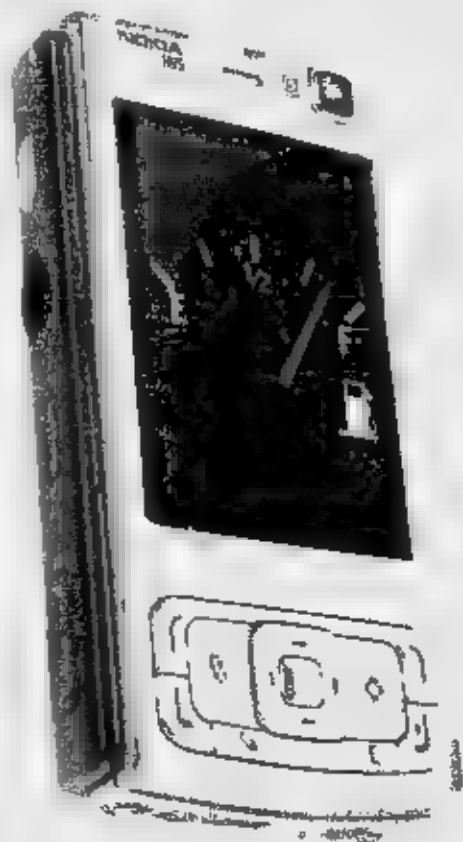
Marin, 42, was shot and killed by a guard of SNPDC while leading a picket against mining in San Fernando on Oct. 3. He was buried last Friday.

"If they were not given that kind of leeway (tree-cutting permit), the incident (killing) could have been averted. All we can do is to make sure that this won't happen again," Atienza said.

Sibuyan, an island in Romblon, is home to a dense forest, a clean river and the Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park.



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# Proposed dam in Tanay draws flak

## Environment groups cite dislocation, danger factors

### DID YOU KNOW

IN 2001, three out of 10 Filipino children aged 5 and below were underweight. According to the National Nutrition Survey, 8 out of 10 children in the highest prevalence of underweight children within the said age range (37.8 percent) followed by Western Visayas (35.2 percent) Metro Manila had the lowest prevalence among all the regions (20.3 percent).

Cyril Bonabente, Inquirer Research

### 6 armed robbers hold up bank in Quezon City

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

FEAR GRIPPED EMPLOYEES AND customers of a bank in Quezon City after six armed suspects, including a woman, robbed the establishment yesterday morning.

The incident was over in five minutes. The robbers left the United Coconut Planters Bank on E. Rodriguez corner Judge Jimenez Streets in Cubao, Quezon City, at around 10:30 a.m. with a still undetermined amount of cash.

Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula of the Quezon City Police District said the suspects failed to open the bank vault because it was equipped with a time delay system. They had to settle for the money in the tellers' drawers and the cash and cell phones of depositors.

Neither Gatdula nor any of the bank officials could say how much money the robbers took, saying the bank's audit team was working on it.

According to Gatdula, only one suspect entered the bank and held the lone security guard at gunpoint. Five other suspects, including a woman, then barged in and ordered everyone to lie face down on the floor.

The suspects escaped on board a white Toyota (WPZ 688) and a green Honda Civic (UCW 153) parked in front of the bank.

Gatdula said they had already identified three of the suspects after a review of the footage taken by the bank's close circuit cameras.

By TJ Burgonio and Kenneth M. del Rosario

DESPITE FIERCE OPPOSITION FROM residents and environmental groups, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is bent on developing the Laiban Dam in Tanay, Rizal as a new source of water for Metro Manila's 16 cities and lone municipality.

The MWSS's plan to utilize Laiban Dam will help in resolving the looming water crisis, especially in the urban sector, MWSS Administrator Lorenzo Jamora said in a statement yesterday.

He added that the project was part of the agency's "vision" to provide an adequate supply of clean water for residents in the metropolis and parts of Rizal.

But nongovernment organizations have warned against the project's adverse impact on the environment and residents, among them indigenous people, and said the dam's location near geological faults could put their

lives at risk.

The construction of the dam within the Kaliwa Watershed would displace some 4,500 families, including the Dumagats and Remontados, in seven barangays in Tanay and a barangay in General Nakar, according to Anabelle Plantilla of Haribon, an environment and wildlife protection group.

"According to Minam PEACE, an educational awareness campaign group for the environment, the cost of the dam outweighs the benefits. Half of Metro Manila's water resources are in wasted due to leaks. The solution is to plug leaks than build a dam," she said in an interview.

Dr. Angelina Galang of the Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Energy shared the same view. "Metro Manila can manage its water better. We don't need a dam," she said.

The project, estimated at \$1 billion, remains in the pre-bidding stage. It will be developed

three years after the contract is awarded to the winning bidder, according to the MWSS. Estimated to produce about 1,900 million liters of water a day, the Laiban Dam would ensure adequate water supply for Metro Manila residents for the next 30 to 40 years.

On top of this, the dam would contribute to the Luzon power grid and alleviate the recurring energy crisis in the region since it could generate some 153 megawatts per hour a year.

Environmental groups, however, said the project would drown eight barangays in Tanay, Rizal: Laiban, Sto. Niño, San Andres, Cayabo, Tinucan, Sta. Inez, Daraitan and Berlimutan; and three barangays in Quezon: Nakar, Infanta and Lower Limutan.

"We cannot live anywhere else. How can we survive when the only way of living we know is life in the mountains? We are not educated, we don't know how to live in the city," said Josephine Peralta, a Tanay resident.

## Rodriguez mayor now after town's landfill contractor

By Tina G. Santos

RODRIGUEZ (RIZAL) MAYOR PEDRO Cuervo said he is considering filing a case against International Solid Waste Management Specialist Inc. (International SWIMS), contractor of the 19-hectare landfill who accused the local government of misusing the P900 million it generated from the six-year operation of the adjacent 14-hectare dump.

"They now resort to dirty tactics after the 19-hectare dump they wanted to operate was found deficient. It didn't have a single legal license, permit or authorization from the municipal government and the required environmental clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources," Cuervo told reporters at a media forum yesterday. Lawyer Andy Santiago of International SWIMS

earlier assailed Cuervo for "moving heaven and earth" to keep the "family business" at the expense of the national government.

Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III earlier closed down the 14-hectare landfill, saying it was already full, and directed that garbage be brought to the 19-hectare site.

Cuervo complied with Ynares' order to close the landfill but said he would not allow dump trucks in the new site because it lacked the necessary permits.

The site was opened later as uncollected garbage accumulated on the streets of Metro Manila, although several mayors said this could only be a "temporary relief."

Cuervo alleged the allegation charge could not erase SWIMS' "manipulation" of Rizal's political leaders "to advance its predatory forays into the sanitary landfill business."

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## Cops' precinct makeover slated next

By Julie M. Aurelio

EXPECT BRIGHTER AND CLEANER POLICE precincts in Metro Manila in the coming months.

The National Capital Region Police Office is rushing the renovation of its stations in the metropolis to complement its "Mamang Pulis (Mister Policeman)" program which aims to bring back the trust of the citizenry in policemen.

NCRPO chief Director Geary Barias yesterday said they would provide additional electric fans, computers, chairs, desks and other equipment policemen would need to carry out their duties.

"It's not to say we will give first class amenities to our policemen, but we want to

improve their working environment and eventually, their attitude toward work," Barias added.

The new chief of the Philippine National Police, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, recently announced that he wants to change the image of policemen by improving community relations and increasing police visibility.

At the NCRPO headquarters at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, 513 men and women have been reassigned to the five police districts in Metro Manila with more to follow suit.

"This will be a continuous downgrading of our personnel. The more people we have in the precincts, the less work for each policeman," Barias said.

## What's wrong with sending nurses to Japan?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SENDING Filipino nurses to Japan under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa)?

Leah Paquiz, president of the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA), is trying to mislead those who want to work in Japan by saying Japan doesn't need nurses and caregivers, and that Filipinos would be treated as trainees when they work in Japan.

Paquiz says Japan does not need foreign nurses, citing the position of the Japan Nurses Association (JNA).

JNA's position is understandable since it has to protect its turf. But its claim runs counter to the official position of the Japanese government.

The Tokyo government, through the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro), acknowledges a shortage of nurses in Japan. Japan has a rapidly growing elderly population that worries its government no end. That's why it plans to hire Filipino nurses who are known throughout the world as competent and compassionate workers.

Hiroshi Yoneyama, Jetro's director for research, citing ministry of health, labor and welfare statistics, says the country needs an additional 400,000 to 600,000 caregivers by the year 2014 because of the aging population. That's seven years from now.

Jpepa is opening the door for Filipino

### ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

nurses to work in Japan. They are being offered the same salaries and benefits, as well protection, enjoyed by Japanese nurses and other health workers.

The average monthly salary of a nurse in Japan is equivalent to \$3,121. This is comparable to a Filipino nurse hired in the US and \$300 more than the starting salary in the United Kingdom.

There is no country in the world, according to my sources, that gives a \$400 allowance with free board and lodging to Filipino nurses to learn Nihongo, a requirement before they can practice in Japan.

And Nihongo is very easy to learn, as many Filipinos who have worked as entertainers in Japan will tell you.

\*\*\*

Despite an order from the court, why does the Cavite Registrar of Deeds Napoleon Gatmaytan Jr. consistently refuse to reconstitute the transfer certificate of title (TCTs) of a piece of land in the province?

In fact, Gatmaytan has already been cited for contempt of court and made to pay P10,000 or to suffer a six-month jail term. Yet, he continues to ignore the court order.

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# Tullahan Bridge opens with more jeers than cheers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

LIGHT VEHICLES WERE ALLOWED ON Tullahan Bridge for the first time yesterday, more than six months after it was closed for rehabilitation.

Motorists, however, were angry instead of

happy after several cars and passenger jeeps got stuck in the muddy road leading to the bridge, prompting Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian to call the reopening "premature."

"The decision of the Department of Public Works and Highway to partially open the bridge was premature, and could only result in more delays and substandard work," Gatchalian said.

According to the mayor, the DPWH should have finished cementing the road leading to the bridge first before opening it to vehicular traffic.

He added the people of Valenzuela deserve "a complete and safe bridge."

"The approach to the bridge should have been cemented first and the project completed before it was opened," Gatchalian said.

"The opening was just for show, they

should have finished cementing the road first before they allowed us to use it," said Boyet Morales, the driver of a passenger jeep which was among the vehicles that got stuck in the middle of the muddy road.

The engine of his jeep conked out when Morales tried to get it out of the mud.

He said that as a result, he would not be able to drive it for the next few days.

"It takes time to repair the engine plus it would cost around P15,000 to have it repaired," Morales said in Filipino.

His sentiments were shared by several drivers whose vehicles had also stalled.

Only cars, jeeps and vans and other light vehicles were allowed to use the bridge yesterday.

Commuters were left with no choice but to walk after the stalled vehicles caused a traffic jam.

The bridge, which is used by hundreds of motorists and commuters, links the cities of Valenzuela and Malabon. It is also the gateway from the north to Metro Manila.

Ed Santos, DPWH National Capital Region project engineer, earlier announced that it would take another week before they complete work on the approaches to the bridge, depending on the weather.

He added, "We are asking the public for a little more patience and understanding because we cannot sacrifice the structure's quality over the original project timetable."

The reconstruction of the 73-year-old bridge was completed last Sept. 15 but it took the DPWH another month to build the approaches at both ends of the infrastructure. The P63 million project was originally set to open in June.

## Vendors to monitor MMDA clearing drive

By DJ Yap

A PLAN BY THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority to enlist 15,000 soldiers in its sidewalk clearing operations has raised the hackles of a group of vendors.

"Already, human rights violations are being committed in the sidewalk clearing operations and the demolition of settlements. What more when they involve soldiers?" said Don Pangan, information officer of Sanlakas, organizer of the Metro Manila Vendors Alliance.

Pangan said the group would monitor

any possible human rights violations in the MMDA's plan to tap reserve or enlisted military personnel in its campaign against sidewalk vendors and informal settlers.

"We are closely monitoring all clearing operations and demolitions. If human rights violations are committed by soldiers, we will take it up with the Commission on Human Rights," he said.

According to Pangan, clearing operations were not part of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' socio-civic role, and branded Fernando's plan of tapping AFP personnel as a form of "terrorism."

"This plan, if it pushes through, will only

result in more violent encounters" between the MMDA's sidewalk clearing group and vendors and illegal settlers, Pangan said.

MMDA Chair Bayan Fernando announced his plan to seek military assistance in the agency's disaster relief and clearing operations when he addressed 376 officers last week during the closing ceremony of a disaster preparedness course at Camp Aguinaldo.

Seeking to allay fears that the military presence would result in more clashes between the government and sidewalk vendors, Fernando said the soldiers were instructed to respect human rights.

Clara de Castro

introducing Ron Capinping

a film by Katski Flores

STILL LIFE is the story of James Masino, a gifted Filipino painter who finds out he is afflicted with a paralyzing disease known as Guillain Barre Syndrome. Faced with a future where he can no longer paint, James leaves his life in the city and goes on a self-imposed exile to paint one last time, one final masterpiece. Unable to imagine a life without his art, he plans to kill himself once he finishes this painting. But Fate intervenes and derails this grand scheme when James learns that he must share this exile with Emma, a beautiful and mysterious young girl who at 19 has lived a life much too old for her years. But it is her courageous and unflinching optimism despite what life has dealt her that ultimately inspires James to realize a life beyond his canvases. Her search for meaning propels his journey towards hope and redemption.

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**A mother's appeal**

THE MOTHER of suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez yesterday appealed to Dr. Francisco Cruz to present his son and convince him to cooperate in the investigation. Mendez's mother, who went to the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday to follow up her son's case, Mendez was declared dead on arrival at a hospital last August of injuries believed to have been sustained during hazing rites. Cruz, who took him to the hospital, said that it was his son, Miguel Francisco, who brought the victim to him and asked him to take him to the hospital. "He is also a parent so I hope that he knows how I feel," Cristina said. Cruz earlier asked the NBI to give his son time to present himself to investigators. Only the younger Cruz's lawyers, however, showed up at the NBI last week.

Tina G. Santos

**Cheaper veggies for Manileños**

MANILA residents were assured of cheaper vegetables in the city's markets yesterday after the launch of a program to eliminate red tape in the delivery of goods and produce. During the project launch at the Pritill Wet and Dry Market in Tondo, Mayor Alfredo Lim said it was an honor for the city to be chosen as the site of yesterday's launch of "World Food Day" which was led by President Macapaga-Arroyo. Lim hailed the government's efforts to lower the price of vegetables by removing the middlemen. "The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement," he said.

Allison W. Lopez

**Reverend Panilio; 90**

REV FRANCISCO Panilio Jr., one of the founders of the Barrio Obrero Baptist Church (BOBC), died last Oct. 14 due to cardiac arrest. He was 90. A native of Mexico, Pampanga, Panilio started preaching in the early 1940s and was one of the pioneers when the BOBC was established in 1949. Panilio survived by his wife, Florence; children and nieces Gita and Baby Macaso, Tommy and Loran Panilio, Jun and Elvy Panilio, Romme and Gere Panilio, Ed Galvez, and Richard Quiocho. His remains lie at the BOBC, 23 C. Narmes St., Caloocan City. Interment plans will be announced later.

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## The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Guaco

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Stop the arrests, UN envoy tells Burma junta

BANGKOK—UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari told Burma (Myanmar) on Monday to stop arresting dissidents even as the military junta vowed to plough on with its "roadmap to democracy" regardless of widespread international criticism. "We will go ahead. We will not deviate from our path," the official New Light of Burma said in a commentary on the generals' seven-point master plan, unveiled in 2003, to chart a course towards civilian government after 45 years of army rule. Gambari, in Bangkok at the start of a regional tour to drum up support for a coordinated front against the junta, said actions spoke louder than words—and that the continued arrests and intimidation of activists were "extremely disturbing."

Reuters

## US, Israeli officials decline comment on air strike

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Israeli officials declined Sunday to confirm or deny a report that an Israeli Air Force strike against Syria last month had bombed a partly constructed nuclear reactor of North Korean design. The report, published in The New York Times on Saturday, was featured prominently in the Israeli news media on Sunday. But Israeli officials continued their silence about the Sept. 6 air strike, though they have signaled they are proud of the operation; a senior military official said it had restored "military deterrence" in the region. Former Israeli officials and intelligence experts would not discuss whether Israel hit a nuclear reactor that was under construction. But they said the report was plausible given their understanding of Syria's ambitions in the realm of nonconventional weaponry and its longstanding quest for strategic parity with Israel.

NYT

## Doctors warned of defibrillator's faulty wire

The nation's largest maker of implanted heart devices, Medtronic, said Sunday that it was urging doctors to stop using a crucial component because it was prone to a defect that has apparently been linked to five deaths and has malfunctioned in hundreds of patients. The faulty component is an electrical "lead," or a wire that connects the heart to a defibrillator, a device that shocks faltering hearts back into normal rhythm. The company is urging all of the roughly 235,000 patients with the lead, known as the Sprint Fidelis, to see their doctors to make sure it has not developed a fracture that can cause the device to misread heart rhythm data.

NYT

## Finally, Airbus to deliver 1st A380 superjumbo

PARIS—After repeated embarrassing delays, Airbus is to deliver its first A380 superjumbo jet Monday—a critical step for the European plane maker in its efforts to rebound from a string of troubles. Singapore Airlines is finally taking delivery of the Airbus double-decker jet, the world's largest passenger plane, almost two years late. The glitzy handover ceremony was to include a sound and light show, followed by speeches and an exchange of gifts. Airbus has gone through five CEOs as multiple delays in the A380 program resulted in massive write-offs and a restructuring plan that foresees 10,000 job cuts over four years—not to mention billions of dollars in lost profit.

AP

## China growth exacting too high a toll, says president

BEIJING—PRESIDENT HU JINTAO SAID MONDAY that China's blistering economic growth was taking too high a toll on the nation's environment and society, and promised steps to limit the impacts.

"Our economic growth is realized at an excessively high cost in resources and to the environment," Hu said in a speech opening the five-yearly Communist Party Congress, China's most important political event.

Hu, who has consistently called for more balanced and sustainable growth during his first five years in power, also said the country was plagued by a widening wealth gap and an unequal geographical distribution of riches.

"There are still a considerable number of impoverished and low-income people in both urban and rural areas, and it has become more difficult to accommodate the interests of all sides," he said.

Hu will receive another five-year term during the week-long Congress.

The president has said he intends to push ahead with his concepts of "scientific development" and the "harmonious society" catchphrases for addressing imbalances.

Although he began the speech by touting his government's performance over the past five years, Hu conceded many people lacked sufficient access to public health services,

housing, education, employment opportunities and justice.

"Some low-income people lead a rather difficult life and more efforts are needed to promote more logical and ethical progress," he said, offering no specifics.

Hu also said China would step up efforts to protect its devastated environment, cut energy use and contribute more to mitigating global climate change, again without giving specifics.

"We will enhance our capacity to respond to climate change and make new contributions to protecting the global climate," said Hu.

The president also set a target of quadrupling the economy by 2020.

China, which relies on heavily-polluting coal for about 70 percent of its energy needs, has quickly caught up to rival United States as the world's largest emitter of climate-changing greenhouse gases.

But Hu made no reference to cutting back dramatically on coal.

China has also so far resisted foreign calls to agree to mandatory emissions reductions, saying that as a developing nation it should be allowed some leeway on pollution in the name of economic growth.



CHINESE President Hu Jintao during the opening of the 17th Communist Party Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Oct. 15.

AFP

Improving the environment while also expanding the economy will require an unprecedented effort to stop local governments from polluting in the name of growth, said Yang Fuqiang, of the US-based Energy Foundation.

"So far, the central and local governments have not done a very good job at this," said Yang, who also said a key step would be to lift price controls on energy, a politically risky move.

"This effort would require everyone to take some responsibility and that is difficult to achieve," China's economy has recorded four straight years of double digit growth under Hu's reign.

It is on track for another huge expansion in 2007, with gross domestic product gaining 11.5 percent in the first six months.

But in another apparent sign of Hu's commitment to curbing breakneck growth, a Congress spokesperson said Sunday that Hu's ideology of "scientific development" would be incorporated into the party's constitution this week.

Putting the phrase into the constitution elevates Hu to the ideological pantheon occupied by past leaders Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin.

AFP



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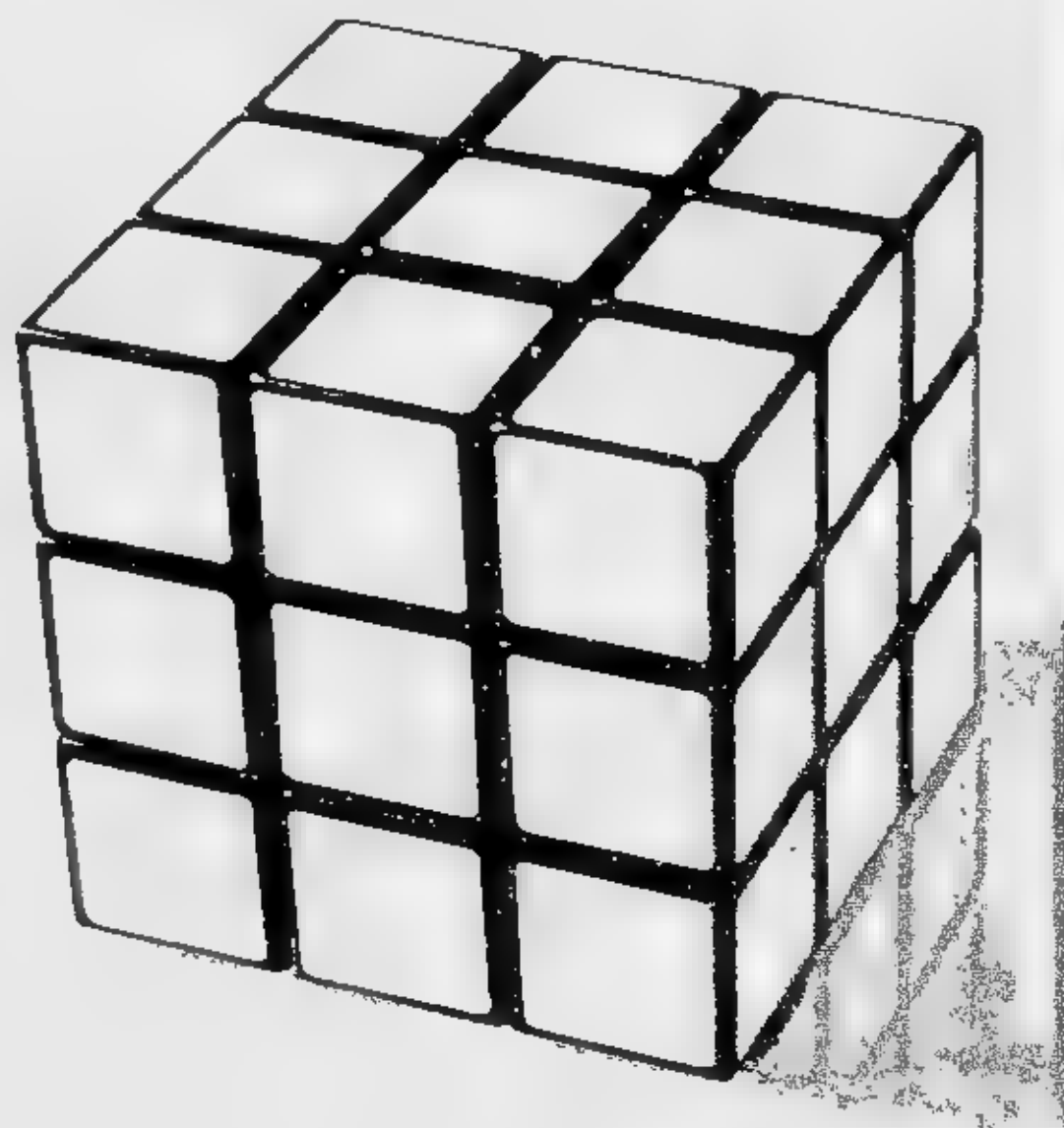
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# SPORTS

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DISGRUNTLED: Roel Ramirez in the rings during the 2005 SEA Games.

## POC blasts gymnast Ramirez for quitting

### Peping says SEA Games dropout owes gov't

By June Navarro

ANY WHICH WAY ONE LOOKS AT IT, gymnast Roel Ramirez is indebted to the government and the Filipino people.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. said this yesterday as he lashed out at the country's top gymnast for deserting the national team bidding to retain the overall title in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games this December.

"They (athletes) must realize that the government has been spending a lot of money for their training and (overseas) exposure," said Cojuangco, referring to Ramirez and other disgruntled members of the national squad who turned their backs on the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines.

Ramirez, who won the gold in the horse vault and floor exercise events of the biennial

meet held in Manila two years ago, joined his mentor, Santiago Ty, in bolting the GAP camp last week.

The departure of Ty and the 25-year-old Ramirez from the team triggered a mass resignation among the national gymnasts, including men's artistic gymnastics members Joven Estera, Jasper Roxas, Frederick Roxas and Chris Matthew Lombidas.

"Whatever happens, they still owe the Filipino people," said Cojuangco.

The POC chief also supported the decision of the SEAG Task Force, composed of members of the Olympic body and the Philippine Sports Commission, to drop Ramirez and his sympathizers from the national pool to the Thailand SEAG set Dec. 6-16.

Reports said the gymnasts protested the failure of the GAP to provide certain athletes the foreign exposures they needed to meet the cri-

teria for inclusion in the 24th edition of the SEAG set in Nakhon Rachasima.

Cojuangco, however, said there was no justification for the decision of Ramirez and Co.

"There has to be some kind of discipline within the NSAs so this incident will not serve as a precedent for other athletes to follow," said Cojuangco.

"What will happen to the NSAs if these type of athletes get what they wanted?"

Meanwhile, SEAG Task Force co-chair Ritchie Garcia said his group would recommend to the POC today a short list of possible flag-bearers for the RP delegation.

Among the candidates are Asian Games medalists Violito Payla and Joan Tipon of boxing, seven-time SEAG gold-medal winner John Baylon of judo and SEAG champions Shuela Mae Perez (diving), Benjie Tolentino (rowing) and Miguel Molina (swimming).

## Lady Falcons target V-League lead today

ADAMSON TRIES TO GRAB THE SOLO LEAD WHEN it battles Lyceum today in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Falcons meet the Lady Pirates at 3 p.m. seeking a follow-up to their 25-23, 25-21, 27-25 victory over the Far Eastern University Lady Tamaraws during Sunday's opening.

Defending champion La Salle takes on Letran at 5 p.m. hoping to bounce back from a 25-23, 25-22, 25-11 loss to the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses also last Sunday.

Adamson, which placed third in its initial foray into the league last year, has acquired former La Salle standout Neriza Bautista, who was also a UST guest

**GAMES TODAY**  
**(The Arena, San Juan)**  
 3 p.m.—Lyceum  
 vs Adamson  
 5 p.m.—Letran  
 vs La Salle

player in the last conference.

Lyceum, coming off another winning WNCAA season, is fielding almost the same squad that placed third in the last conference led by WNCAA Most Valuable

Player Sherrilyn Carillo, Mary Grace Babalo, Bernadette Satsatin, Dahla Cruz and Beverly Boro.

La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus is bracing for the worst even if his wards are playing the previous conference's worst team.

"We're in an adjustment phase," De Jesus said prior to the league's start. "We're mostly using former junior

standouts who have recently entered the varsity level."

But the coach of the 2003-2006 UAAP champion team stressed that they would give the other schools a good fight despite their obvious disadvantage.

La Salle did not bring back Thai import Sanoraseang Areerat and instead hired Maureen Penetrante to back up Stephanie Mercado, Manila Santos, Carla Llaguno, Michelle Datuin, Jacqueline Alarca and Regine Diego.

Letran, the 1997-98 NCAA champion, has guest player Johanna Carpio, Bangladesh Pantaleon, Gena Andaya, Cindy Optana, Rosan Fajardo and Christine Magcanlas in its bid to improve on an eighth place finish in the last conference.

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## Marcelo 10th in ROK World Cup of karting

LONATO, ITALY—YOUNG KARTING ACE Jean Stefano Marcelo overcame a bent chassis and a start far down the final grid to finish 10th in a field of 96 in the 2007 ROK World Cup at the South Garda Karting Track over the weekend.

The 14-year-old Filipino thus became the first Southeast Asian to land in the top 10 of the ROK Senior class in the world's toughest karting competition.

Marcelo completed the final 20-lap race in 15 minutes and 15.747 seconds, highlighting his rally with a best lap time of 44.847 seconds which threatened the 44.811 seconds posted by eventual champion Emanuele Paganini of Italy.

"I gave it my best and we're quite proud to prove that Filipinos are among the best karters in the world," said Marcelo, shoo-in for the Philippines' Karter of the Year award.

The 96 participants were broken down into four groups in the elimination races with Stefano ending up as the 14th qualifier from a grid of 32 karters in the first heat.

In the 32-man second heat, Marcelo chasing the leaders in ninth place when he was bumped from behind with two laps to go and lost control. He wound up 16th.

That finish pulled him down to the repechage races where only the top six secured spots in the semifinals.

But Marcelo was up to the challenge and



STEFANO Marcelo on the way to a gritty top 10 finish in the Italy World Cup.

ruled the race by 4.2 seconds in front of a huge gallery that included the legendary Formula One champ Michael Schumacher.

Marcelo started 29th in the semifinals and, despite bending his chassis after hitting a barrier as he averted a collision, moved up to secure 18th place in the pre-final race.

The Marcelo Racing crew salvaged what was left with the kart and Stefano worked his way up to 10th, passing Nicholas Toner of Russia and Adamek Frantiser of the Czech Republic in the final lap.

## Piccio tops World Woods Open



PICCIO: By one shot

MIA PICCIO SIZZLED WITH A two-under-par 70 to turn back Sally Watson of Scotland and rule the World Woods Open of the Laura Diaz FCWT (Future Collegians World Tour) by one stroke on her first try in Brooksville, Florida, Sunday.

Piccio, two strokes behind Watson at the start of the 36-hole competition, gunned down four birdies on Nos. 1, 7, 10 and 13 to negate bogeys on 11 and 16. She finished with a two-under 142.

Watson bogeyed three of her

last six holes for a 73 and 143 total in the event which serves as part of a series of tournaments lined up for members of the RP team on golf scholarships from ICTSI.

Cyna Rodriguez, who shared second place with Piccio in the first round, also made a 73 and finished tied for third with Elisa Aoki of Japan at 145.

The win also gave the bespectacled Piccio 3,000 points to show the way in the race for the overall title of the event exclusively for players in the 13-18 age bracket.

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**MEGATRADE HALL**  
**MEGAMALL**



# Everest conquerors also big in triathlon

By Jasmine W. Payo

CLIMBING BACK TO THE TOP OF TRIATHLON races turned out much faster than he thought.

Leo Oracion, one of the first Filipinos to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, returned to his sporting roots to capture the overall title in the final leg of the Speedo National Age Group Triathlon Series last Sunday at the Ayala Alabang Village.

"I started in triathlon," the 33-year-old Oracion said. "I was at my peak in 1999 when I shifted to adventure racing, then mountain climbing."

Oracion, who placed second in the Los Baños leg last month, completed the 950-meter swim, 27-km bike, 6.5-km run in one hour, 33 minutes and 39 seconds to

rule the sixth and final leg of the series.

"I came back to stay fit," said Oracion, the Lucban, Quezon, native who conquered the world's highest peak in May last year. "I'm planning to climb K2 in Pakistan, maybe in 2009. It's more technical than Mt. Everest."

Another Everest alumna, petite climber Carina Dayondon, crossed the finish line first in the women's race with a time of 1:49:15, but the Triathlon Association of the Philippines awarded the top plum to Marichi Rojas after noting that Dayondon missed one loop in the run stage.

Rojas clocked 1:59:42, followed by Margarita Loosin in 2:08:17 and Yvette Medalla in 2:16:34.

Oracion took off early by joining the first pack in the



LEO ORACION: Proud of his triathlon roots

swim leg in 15 minutes and 10.10 seconds, then pulled ahead by submitting the best time in the 27-km bike at 51 minutes and 37.90 seconds.

Hiroshi Takei came in second in 1:33:49, followed by John Higger Quinones in 1:37:40.

Other top finishers: Oracion, 30-34 age group; Quinones, 16-19 (1:37:40); Rafael Vales, 20-24 (1:53:27); Lloyd Ngoh, 25-29 (1:41:13); Pol Reyes, 35-39 (1:38:51); Pao Sandejas, 40-44 (1:55:05); Michael Encarnacion, 45-49 (2:21:10); Carlos Santos-Viola, 50-54 (2:12:25); Daniel Ng, 60-up (2:24:22).

## Lyceum bags 2 WNCAA crowns

LYCEUM DOWNED COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICTE, 61-57, Sunday to put away the Senior A basketball crown of the 38th WNCAA season at the San Sebastian College gym.

The Lady Pirates thus made it a double kill after having topped the volleyball competition Friday, sweeping St. Francis of Assisi College for the Senior A plum—their eighth in the country's only tri-level league for women.

The Lady Pirates protected a 58-57 lead in the final 1:38 by silencing their opponents the rest of the way with their sticky defense.

"All our hard work paid off," said rookie coach Aileen Leborio. "Credit goes to my players and to our school officials for supporting us all the way."

April Diane Lualaba topscored for the Lady Pirates with 17 points, followed by RP team member Machiko Matsuno who had 16.

The 5-foot-9 Matsuno was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

**MICROVAN**

**MEGA SALE!**  
on Oct. 24, 2007 - STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

## Harbour-RP cagers entertain OFWs

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—THE Harbour Centre-RP team took a break from its training stint here to play a friendly game with a team of Filipino workers and migrants who took a 125-92 loss before hundreds of their cheering kababayans here.

"The Filipino community invited us to play with them, so as ambassadors of goodwill we obliged them and gave their families an entertainment they missed," said team manager Erick Arejola.

Playing just hard enough, the Nationals finished with 17 triples against their overmatched rivals.

It was actually the fourth outing for the Harbour-RP squad

whose trip here is part of the team's preparation for the 24th SEA Games this December.

After dropping their initial game against Myungji University Thursday, the Nationals mauled Yongsei University, 91-76, and then surprised the US Army five the following day, 102-88.

"They're not only training but they're also providing entertainment to hundreds of OFWs," said Harbour Centre owner and amateur basketball godfather Mikee Romero.

Jeff Chan, Boyet Bautista, Erick dela Cuesta, Jonathan Fernandez and Patrick Cabahug used the match to work on their offense.

## So tumbles anew in World Juniors

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL Master Wesley So continued his skid in the standings of the 2007 World Juniors and Girls Chess Championships at the T. Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia, late Sunday.

The 14-year-old pride of Bacoor, Cavite, who has gained his second grandmaster result here, yielded to fellow IM Gogineni Rohit of India in the 11th round and got stuck at 6.0 points in the 13-round tourney.

So, a co-leader after five rounds, tumbled to a share of 24th to 33rd places, 2.5 points

behind pacesetter GM Ivan Popov of Russia, who beat IM Grigoryan Avetik of Armenia.

To salvage a good placing, So must win his last two matches, including his 12th round showdown with fellow 6.0-pointer IM Tamas Banusz of Hungary late Monday.

In the girls' side, two-time national champion WNM Aces Salvador yielded to WFM Irina Gegorgyan of Uzbekistan and dropped to a share of 40th to 48th spots with 4.5 points. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

## BUTUAN MILO MARATHON ELIMS

# Sandinao, Arman best all comers

BUTUAN CITY—VETERAN RONILLO Sandinao captured his third leg championship even as Mary Rose Arman broke through after three second-place finishes in the 31st National Milo Marathon eliminations that ended at the City Plaza yesterday.

Sandinao, who won two titles in Cagayan de Oro City, clocked one hour 16 minutes and 16 seconds to rule the men's 21K race and tow five other qualifiers to the 42K grand finale in Metro Manila on Nov. 18.

Sandinao earlier tried to qualify to the grand finals during the Metro Manila elimination leg last July 22 but failed to finish the 42K race.

The 42-year-old from Sumilao, Bukidnon, prevailed at the expense of two former leg winners—Reynante Villama, who won in Davao City last year, and Jonard Comonong, the champion here in 2001 and 2005.

Villama placed second in 1:17:36 and Comonong came in third in 1:19:15.

The 22-year-old Arman of Tubay, Agusan del Norte, finally shed her



RONILLO Sandinao breasts the tape, the easy winner of yesterday's race.

runner-up image yesterday as perennial winner Hazel Madamba failed to join the race. She won in 1:49:37. Placing second and third were

Michelle Azarcon (1:51:59) of Surigao and Tessie Baron (1:58:26) of the Philippine National Police.

Sandinao and Arman each pocketed P10,000 while the second and third finishers settled for the P7,000 and P5,000 prize, respectively.

The top three in both divisions made it to the finals of this annual foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, adidas and the Department of Tourism.

The top three finishers in the 5K side event were Kim Balinton, Jexter Acayde and Crisanto Aclo Jr. in the men's and Katt Christine Aclo, Cristine Beagore and Jennifer Sugaran in the distaff side.

The winners in the 3K age-group race for kids were Adrian Lamprea and Kate Len Aclo in the 6-9 category and Darrel Facundo and Yve Chloimae Aclo in the 10-12 age group.

Agusan National High School won the cheerdance competition in the high school level while Ft. Sarumino Uries University captured the crown in the grade school level.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Eala, back in limelight, heads PSA Forum guests

BASKETBALL, BOXING AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL share the spotlight today in the weekly PSA Forum at the Shakey's United Nations Avenue branch.

Coaches of the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) will be on hand to discuss their respective campaigns in the league's First Conference that starts on Saturday.

Former PBA commissioner Noll Eala, with boxers Ray "Boom Boom" Bualista and AJ Banal, will talk about a big boxing card slated in December at the Araneta Coliseum.

Also gracing the public sports program sponsored by Shakey's and Pagcor are the finalists in the Petron Ladies beach volleyball grand finals who will be accompanied by tournament organizer Tina Abundo. The session starts at 10:30 a.m.

### Araneta stagfest under way

ALL-ROADS LEAD TO THE 20,000-SEAT Araneta Coliseum today as the championship round of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-stag derby kicks off at 1 p.m. with 86 fights lined up.

Among the front-runners with three wins each going into today's 4-stag finals are the entries of Pol Estrelado, NMC group, Alvin Acosta, Alex Bauan, John Capinpin, Nelson Uy, Boy Tanyag, Dr. Gil Nicolas-Anselmo Lumabi, Dr. Boy Tuazon, Joey Abaquit/Mim Itchon, Bobby del Rosario and Joe Alimbuyugan.

The derby's remaining 90 fights will be staged on Thursday.

## Paragua whips Bitoon, rules Tanauan Open

### GRANDMASTER

Mark Paragua swept International Master Richard Bitoon in their two-game playoff Sunday to top the Tanauan Open chess tournament held at the campus of the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan City, Batangas.

Paragua, the only GM who survived the rash of upsets in the quarterfinal round, also defeated National Master Robert Suelo, 2-0, in a tiebreak in a round of 16; NM John Paul Gomez, 1.5-0.5, in the quarterfinals; and IM Ronald Bancod, 1.5-0.5, in the semifinals.

With the win, Paragua pocketed the P100,000 championship purse put up by school chair and president Sarumino Beien.

Bitoon, who earned the right to meet Paragua in the finals by beating NM Mirabeau Maga (2-0), GM Darwin Laylo (2-0) and IM Barlo Nadera (2-0), won P40,000.

Bancod, upset winner over GM Rogelio Antonio in the quarterfinals, bested Nadera in the battle for third place to earn P20,000.



PARAGUA

Nadera, 1.5-0.5 upset winner over 2005 Tanauan Open champion GM Eugene Torre, settled for P10,000.

The quarterfinal round turned out to be the testing ground for the four GMs.

The other awardees were Eduardo Agagon (top

senior), Homer Cumanan (top executive), Christine Rose Mariano (top lady player), Arwin Dableo (top junior), Giovanni Cyrene Romero (top under 1800), Jefferson Caba (top unrated), Aldus Brant Austria (top kiddie) and Roger Vic Mago (youngest player).

Paragua also topped the Fische random chess tournament held simultaneously with the elimination round of the third Tanauan Open at the SM Lipa.

Bitoon, who replaced Laylo in the single-round robin event, placed second, followed by Torre and Antonio in third and fourth places, respectively.

The three-day Tanauan Active Chess Open Championship is an annual chess event of the Active Chess Center of Asia.

Republic of the Philippines  
Province of South Cotabato  
City of Koronadal

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Koronadal through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project : New City Hall of Koronadal  
Location : Zone III, City of Koronadal, South Cotabato  
Brief Description : Construction of a Four (4) Storey Building with Basement  
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Two Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00)  
Contract Duration : Eight (8) Months

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows.

Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility	October 16-30, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 16-30, 2007
3. Deadline of Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 5, 2007, 5:00 p.m.
4. Notice of result of Eligibility Check	Nov. 9, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 12-19, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 21, 2007
7. Deadline of Submission/Receipt and Opening of Bids	Submission - Dec. 4, 2007, 5:00 p.m. Opening - Dec. 5, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the City General Services Office, Ground Floor, City Hall, Gen. Santos Drive, City of Koronadal, upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three (3) Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) to the Cashier of the City Treasurer's Office of Koronadal. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) to the cashier.

The City Government of Koronadal assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify contractors for any expenses incurred in the preparation of eligibility requirements.

For inquiries, you can contact the City Engineer's Office/Project Management Unit (PMU) with telephone no. (083) 2282395 and look for Engr. Ruel C. Tanchon.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MARCELITA M. LUCIDO  
BAC Chairman



# De La Hoya, Duran lead WBC Convention guests

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

ALL-TIME GREATS OSCAR DE LA HOYA AND ROBERTO DURAN, as well as former heavyweight world champions Lennox Lewis and Larry Holmes head the guest list when the 45th WBC Annual Convention is held at the Manila Hotel from Nov. 11-17.

The former boxing superstars will be joined by World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman and possibly the infamous Mike Tyson and Hall-of-Fame-bound Marco Antonio Barrera, Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao's latest Mexican victim.

The government, with the Games and Amusements Board as lead agency, has prepared a grand welcome for the expected 600 foreign delegates and 400 local boxing luminaries coming over for the annual affair.

"After 37 years, the Philippines will once again play host to the most influential organization in the boxing industry," said GAB Chair Eric Buhan during yesterday's press conference at the Manila Hotel.



HOPEFUL HOST: GAB chair Eric Buhan

day's press conference at the Manila Hotel.

"This year's scheduled convention is a chance for us to showcase the Philippines once again as one of the foremost countries that support and promote boxing."

Tyson's agents have sent feelers that he is interested to come while Barrera, who's hanging up his

gloves after losing anew to Pacquiao in Las Vegas recently, was invited by Sulaiman.

The 76-year-old Sulaiman is expected to hit town on Nov. 7, while the Orient Pacific Boxing Federation members arrive on Nov. 8 for the OPBF Convention on the same

day. The WBC Ratings Committee members are arriving on Nov. 9.

A courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo has been scheduled for Nov. 10, the same day the WBC Board of Governors are set to arrive from their respective countries.



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM  
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (JANITORIAL SERVICES)

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of Eleven Million Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P. 11,300,000.00) being the approved budget for the contract, ABC, to payments under the contract for Janitorial Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The DAR, now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for Janitorial Manpower of three (3) supervisors and Seventy eight (78) Janitors. The Contract for Janitorial Services shall be for a period of six (6) months from January 2008 to June 2008. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only bids from bidders who pass eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bids (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Agrarian Reform Bids and Awards Committee (DAR BAC) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting October 17-23, 2007.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P. 20,000.00. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

The DAR BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 24, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at HRD Training Center, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 8, 2007. Late bids shall not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
GSIS Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check or Bank Draft	One percent (1%)

Bid opening shall be on November 8, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative who choose to attend the opening of bids.

The DAR BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) GERUNDO C. MADUENO  
Undersecretary, SSO  
Chairman, BAC

(PD-October 16 & 22, 2007)



Republic of the Philippines  
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION  
PhilHealth Regional Office - CAR  
44-SNS Building, Tarroco Rd., Haguro City  
Hondolite (074) 444-8361, 444-9862 www.philhealth.gov.ph

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (AEB 07-10-005)

The PhilHealth Regional Office - CAR, through the Corporate Operating Budget 2007 intends to apply the sum of P2,712,960.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the procurement of Security Services (AEB 07-10-005). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PRO - CAR now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of Security Services. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizen/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PRO - CAR and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of three thousand pesos (P3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PRO - CAR will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 31, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Office of the Assistant Vice President.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 8:00 AM on November 15, 2007. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)

Bid opening shall be on November 15, 2007 at 9:01 A.M. at the Office of the Assistant Vice President. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or his representative who choose to attend at the address below.

The PRO - CAR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) CATALINA C. ADAWEY  
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PD-October 18, 2007)



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
National Capital Region  
DY Int'l Bldg. 1650 San Marcelino  
cor General Malver St., Malate, Manila

## NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
BORACAY SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RESORT INC. Level 3 Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Ave. cor Makati Ave, Makati City	Kim Sung Yang Malaysian	Site OS Manager
BORACAY SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RESORT, INC. Level 3 Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Ave. cor Makati Ave., Makati City	Yu Fong Peter Ng Chinese	External Works Supervisor
BORACAY SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RESORT, INC. Level 3 Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Ave. cor Makati Ave., Makati City	Hau Ping Chan Chinese	Assistant Project Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor Makati Ave. Makati City	Xin He Chinese	Finance Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor Makati Ave., Makati City	Jian Que Chinese	Project Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor Makati Ave. Makati City	Jin Chen Chinese	Technical Engineer
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor Makati Ave. Makati City	Peng Yu Chinese	Account Manager
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Zhongming Zhang Chinese	Manager
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Calvin Wang Chinese	Mechanical Supervisor
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St. South Forbes Park, Makati City	Dandan Pan Chinese	Translator
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Zhengqiang Li Chinese	Chief/Cook
F F CRUZ & COMPANY INC. 800 EDSA, Cubao, Quezon City	Dudley Martin English British	Consultant
AMBERGRIS SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES INC 31/F Discovery Centre 25 ADB Ave. Ortigas Centre, Pasig City	Satyajit Indian	Director of Operations
D & F CONSTRUCTION & DEV'T. CORP. 11 B12 B/F Globe Telecom Plaza 1, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Jinuk Kim Korean	Comptroller
GAJA MANILA TRAVEL & TOURS INC. Rm. 503 LTC Corp. Centre, EDSA cor P. Celis St. Pasay City	Seungbin Hong (w/o Song) Korean	Assistant Administrative Manager
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & INNOVATION CONSULTING INC. 10/F IBM Plaza Bldg., Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City	Martin Richard German	Corporate Business Trainer
QNI PHILIPPINES, INC. 22/F Salcedo Towers, 69 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Troy Joseph Dominic Charlton Australian	Health and Safety Manager
CHINA STATE (PHILS.) CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION 31/F Unit 3102, Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Shuchun Qi Chinese	Civil Engineer
TOUR WANNABE, INC. 277 Damon Bldg., Financial Center Area, D. Macapagal Ave., Pasay City	Sang Ho Kim Korean	Financial Controller
OSRP, LLC PHILIPPINE BRANCH 2/F EDSA Central Pavilion Bldg Edsa cor United St. Greenfield District, Mandaluyong City	Connie Lee Vega American	Collections Manager
SHOE EXTRACO CORP 7579 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Cruz Cmpd., Parañaque City	Werner Georg Schneiss German	Engineer
HANKOOK HANYANG MANPOWER AGENCY CORP & BUSINESS CONSULTANCY CORP. B3 L1 Red St. cor Rainbow Dr., Goodwill 2, BF Homes, Parañaque City	Heetal Park Korean	General Manager
HANKOOK HANYANG MANPOWER AGENCY CORP & BUSINESS CONSULTANCY CORP. B3 L1 Red St. cor Rainbow Dr. Goodwill 2, BF Homes, Parañaque City	Xanghyun Seo Korean	Assistant General Manager
ZTE PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor Makati Ave., Makati City	Yeong Chen Chinese	Product Manager
GPLAYON INC 11-1604 Gold Loop Tower, Escriba Drive, San Antonio, Pasig City	Jeong Ho Yang Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE  
OIC-Regional Director

(PD-October 16, 2007)

## PBA unfair to Jaworski?

THE MEMBERS OF THE Philippine Basketball Association board should nip in the bud a reported proposal to limit the age of their incoming commissioner to between 42 and 48 years old.

In my assessment, that proposal is flawed.

At this point, what the PBA needs is a commissioner who is older, a commissioner who is not only endowed with experience, but is also well-respected and known to the team owners, the players and, most of all, the fans, who are the backbone of the play-for-pay league.

Over the years, the PBA—once the country's most popular and prestigious sports organization—has already lost some of its luster. The record will show that since 2003, when young and inexperienced people took over the PBA's affairs, the league fell on hard times.

Most diehard fans now remember the PBA more for its failures than for its successes during the good old days when the much respected Leo Prieto was at the helm.

This time, I am keeping my fingers crossed that new league chair Tony Chua of Red Bull, the members of the board, the search committee and PBA officer-in-charge Sonny Barrios, would be able to make a successful turnaround for the league.

By the way, the search committee is slated to meet today and discuss, among others, the proposal to limit the age of the new commissioner.

Two names have been mentioned as the leading candidates to become the PBA's seventh commissioner, namely lawyer Chito Salud, son of well-admired lawyer Rudy Salud, who once served as PBA commissioner, and former Nextel Communications executive Lambert Ramos.

I would also like the committee to include in the list the names of several "oldies but goodies" such as former Sen. Robert Jaworski, local basketball's "Living Legend" and ex-Olympian Freddie Webb, also a former senator like the Big J.

As a longtime follower of the PBA, I maintain that only the best and most experi-

## CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Itigo



enced should be named as commissioner. And one of the most ideal choices is no other than Jaworski, who at 61 is still fit and trim.

Jaworski, then carrying Guebra's colors, quit the PBA in 1999 when he was 52, the oldest ever to play professional basketball anywhere in the world.

"I think it is a record that is very hard to duplicate," said Paul Mortel of Marikina City.

Jaworski played for the Philippines in the Asian Games, the Olympics and the former Asian Basketball Confederation (now known as FIBA Asia championship). As a playing coach, Jaworski won four PBA titles, aside from mentoring the Philippine team to a silver-medal finish in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games.

Tired of broken promises, recent Manila visitor Kobe Bryant of the many-time NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers said he wants out. Bryant's "falling out" with team owner Jerry Buss was further aggravated when the popular player referred to the 74-year-old Buss as an "idiot" in an amateur video.

Responding, Buss said: "I was a little surprised at him because, certainly, he's never said anything to me like that. He's always been very respectful to me." He added that he hasn't seen the video.

Belated congratulations to TY Tang, son of my esteemed friend Rey and his lovely wife Alice, for receiving the first ever Presidential Medal from De La Salle University.

Team captain of the Green Archers, Tang was cited by DLSU president Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, "for living up to the ideals of a La Salle student and athlete" during the recent UAAP victory celebrations at the school campus on Taft Avenue.

Tang received the medal from his proud grandmother Emilia.

Place 1—(Or/Tri)—Easy Lover  
(5) Sworn O'War (4) Kip  
Goto (6) Rosa N. Fari/Yu  
Got It All (3)

Place 2—(Penta/Or/Tri)—  
Dark Gaps (2), Just Desi-  
sion (12), Patchi (7),  
Andie's Rum/Victory Joe  
(13), Grand Horror (11)

Place 3—(Or/Tri)—Pivotal (7),  
Reman (1), Happy  
Agan (5), Wild Orchid (2)

Place 4—(Penta/Or/Tri)—  
Pentamemorian (10),

BY TOP CHOICE

Bunker Buster (11), Five  
O'Clock (2), Billi Baby  
(8), Friendly Ventures (5)

Place 5—(Penta/Or/Tri)—  
Blonde Bay (8), Dancing  
Slaw (2), Hapburn (3),  
Santiago (4), Honest To  
Goodness (7)

Place 6—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Iron  
King/Love Talk (8), Lovely  
Tars (5), Gutsy (5), Cele-  
stia (3), Gold Coter (1)

Place 7—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Re-  
velation (11), Panlougho  
(8), Desert Breeze (12),  
Queen Josephine (1),  
Look Who's Playing (9)

Place 8—(Super 6/Or/Tri)—  
Yao Man (5), Cool Cabo  
(5), Maraleon (11), Go  
Go Eugene (10), Western  
Champ (3), Harrier (4)

Place 9—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Iron  
King/Love Talk (8), Lovely  
Tars (5), Gutsy (5), Cele-  
stia (3), Gold Coter (1)

Place 10—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Re-  
velation (11), Panlougho  
(8), Desert Breeze (12),  
Queen Josephine (1),  
Look Who's Playing (9)

Place 11—(Super 6/Or/Tri)—  
Yao Man (5), Cool Cabo  
(5), Maraleon (11), Go  
Go Eugene (10), Western  
Champ (3), Harrier (4)

Place 12—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Iron  
King/Love Talk (8), Lovely  
Tars (5), Gutsy (5), Cele-  
stia (3), Gold Coter (1)

Place 13—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Re-  
velation (11), Panlougho  
(8), Desert Breeze (12),  
Queen Josephine (1),  
Look Who's Playing (9)

Place 14—(Super 6/Or/Tri)—  
Yao Man (5), Cool Cabo  
(5), Maraleon (11), Go  
Go Eugene (10), Western  
Champ (3), Harrier (4)



## SPORTS

# Els enhances reputation as Match Play champion

WENTWORTH, ENGLAND—Ernie Els rejuvenated his stalled career with an emphatic record seventh victory in the final of the World Match Play Championship on Wentworth's West Course here Sunday.

A combination of inspired putting and creative scrambling saw the South African overwhelm Angel Cabrera of Argentina, 6 and 4, to claim the million pound (\$2.3 million) winner's check.

"This has been a very important win to myself and my career," he said after collecting the now familiar trophy.

"It's absolutely a dream come true and I would never have thought in my wildest dreams that I could win this tournament seven times.

"Yesterday, against Henrik (Stenson), was a really tough match and I wasn't at my best, but for some reason today it was all there, especially this afternoon."

It was only Els' second European Tour victory of 2007 and the



ERNIE ELS: Richer by \$2M AFP

24th of his career, but his recent form has been inconsistent as he has struggled to shake off the lasting effects of a knee injury sustained two years ago on a sailing holiday.

"I've played well the last two years," he said.

"It may seem like I'm a patient guy, but I'm quite impatient when it comes to getting results and

they haven't come my way. But to get a win is satisfying and hopefully this will open up some doors for me.

"The world number one, Tiger (Woods) is out there, but I just want to keep playing this way."

With 12 birdies in the 32 holes played, it was Els' short game that made the difference.

The 37-year-old, whose season to date has been one of near-misses and frustration, immediately took control in the morning round of the 36-hole final.

He won the opening hole and then reached the turn in 31, three up on Cabrera, the US Open champion, after pitching in on the fourth for his fourth birdie in seven holes.

An increasingly frustrated Cabrera might have thought his luck had turned on the par five 12th, when a wayward Els conceded the hole after his third shot ended up in the water.

But a 35-foot putt on the 14th restored the South African's three-hole lead. AFP

## Ochoa keeps Samsung crown

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—World No. 1 Lorena Ochoa posted her second successful title defense of 2007 by easily winning the \$1 million LPGA Samsung World Championship on Sunday.

Ochoa started the round tied with Norway's Suzann Pettersen before going on to shoot a six-under 66 for 18-under 270 and her seventh title of the year.

"I have been trying to get my seventh victory for a couple of weeks," said Ochoa, who clinched the Player of the Year Award. "I like being on top, and I am going to continue to work hard."



LORENA OCHOA: Easy victory AFP

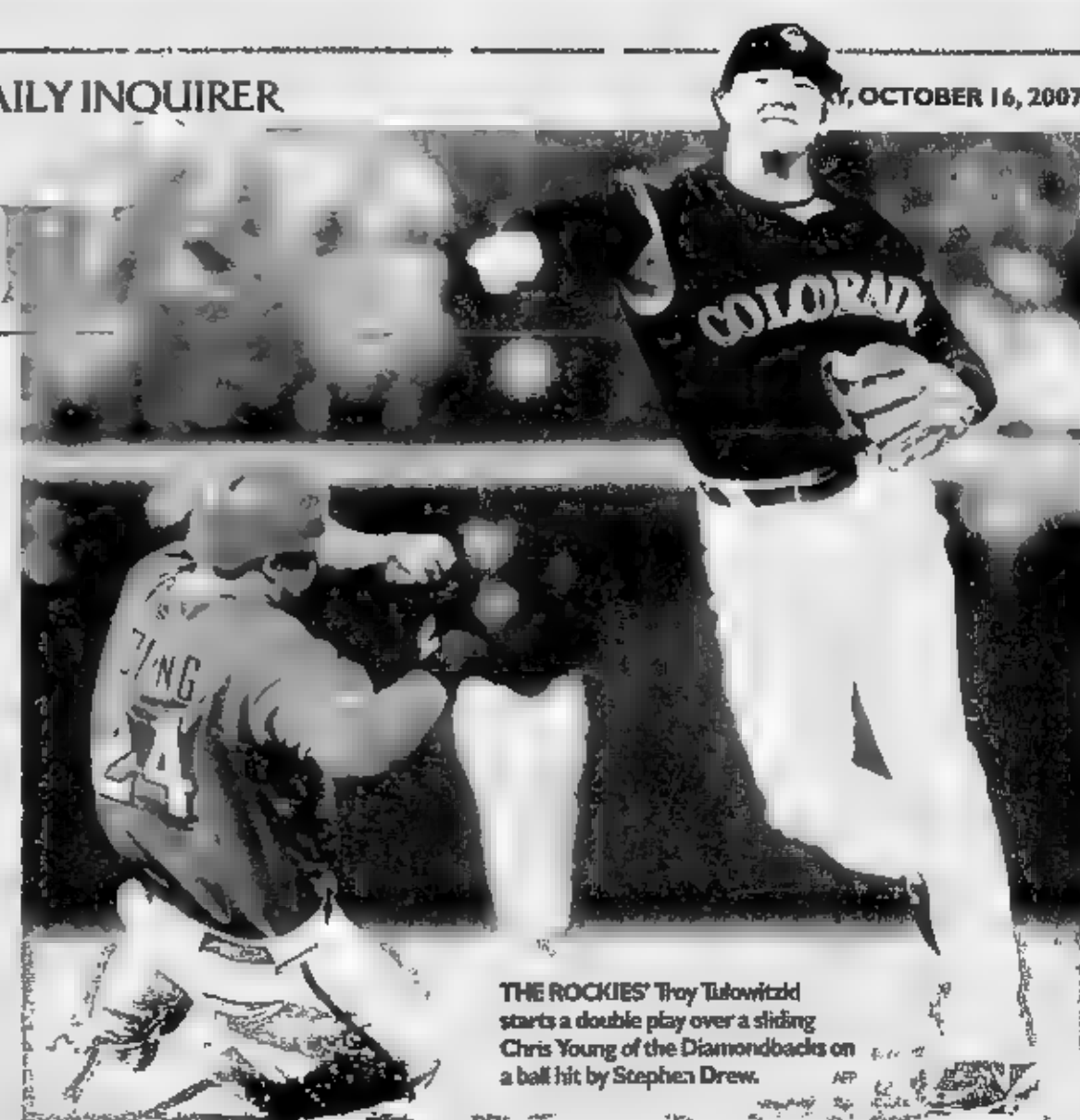
Ochoa added \$250,000 to her three million-plus earnings, further cementing her grip on the money list lead and as the tour's scoring leader.

"Everything is coming together," she said. "I understand myself a lot better, and I know how to handle the pressure."

She finished with seven birdies and made one bogey for a four-stroke win over South Korea's Mi Hyun Kim, who shot a 69 and finished at 14-under 274.

Pettersen, who overcame Ochoa on the second hole of sudden-death playoff to win the Longs Drugs Challenge last week, shot even-par 72 to finish six shots adrift at the Palm Springs-area Bighorn Golf Club.

Michelle Wie averted finishing last by one stroke after shooting a one-under 71 on Sunday. AFP



THE ROCKIES' Troy Tulowitzki starts a double play over a sliding Chris Young of the Diamondbacks on a ball hit by Stephen Drew. AFP

# Rockies pound Diamondbacks

DENVER—YORVIT TORREALBA's three-run, sixth-inning homer powered the Colorado Rockies to a 4-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks and within one win of their first World Series on Sunday.

The streaking Rockies, who lead the National League Championship Series, 3-0, can wrap up the title with a home victory over the Diamondbacks on Monday.

If they win the series, they will play either the Boston Red Sox or the Cleveland Indians in the World Series. The Red Sox and Indians are tied 1-1 in the AL series.

Torrealba broke a 1-1 tie with

his line-drive homer off Arizona starter Livan Hernandez into the left field stands.

"He threw a fast one, and I hit it really good," Torrealba, the Rockies' catcher, told reporters after facing two slow curveballs from Hernandez.

The homer, which came with two outs, was his first of the post-season. He also had a double in the third inning. The victory was the 20th in 21 games for the Rockies, who have won all six playoff outings.

Josh Fogg gained the win, his second in the post-season, holding Arizona to seven hits and one run

over six innings. He struck out three and walked one.

"We played them (the Diamondbacks) a lot this year, so we had a pretty good idea of what we wanted to do with them," Fogg told reporters.

Matt Holliday gave Colorado a 1-0 lead with a solo homer in the first inning off Hernandez but Arizona evened it in the fourth through Mark Reynolds' homer.

Only one team has rallied from a 3-0 deficit in a championship series, the Boston Red Sox in 2004 against the New York Yankees. They went on to win the World Series. Reuters

## England, SA gain finals

PARIS—ENGLAND SCALED NEW HEIGHTS of defensive performance in its semifinal win over France, assistant coach Mike Ford said on Monday.

The world champions, who were impressive defensively against the Australians in the quarterfinals, moved up a gear in the Stade de France to keep the hosts from their tryline and restrict them to three penalties in the 14-9 win.

The French, who resorted to long-range drop goal attempts from the opening ex-

changes, ended the game with a series of desperate, hopeful kicks and chips after their attempts to run through England's white wall continually failed.

South Africa beat Argentina, 37-13, in the other semifinal on Sunday with all four of its tries coming from turnover ball.

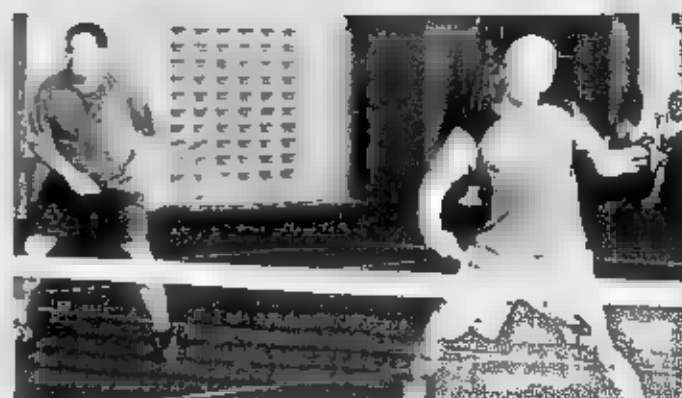
England is likely to be without winger and 2003 winner Josh Lewsey for Saturday's final game because of a hamstring strain and his defensive contribution will be sorely missed. Reuters

## PCA netters rule Home & Away tilt

PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN Association (PCA)-Fermarjin stunned top seed and host Mandaluyong Lawn Tennis Club (MLTC)-Mizuno, 4-3, Saturday to bag the 3rd Babolat Home & Away Interclub Team Tennis title.

Hanky Lee and Aldrin Geluz won the deciding seventh match over Gigi Tecson and Buggy delos Reyes, 8-7, as PCA clinched its second Home and Away title in three years.

PCA's Jun Toledo, the tournament's most valuable player, headed the award winners honored by sponsors Babolat, Chris Sports and Timeforce Watches. The other top performers were MLTC's Baby Gregorio and Patrick Jeanjacquet (best in men's doubles), PCA's Joy Sanchez and Elena Duran (best in ladies



PCA's Ivan Santos hits a backhand volley as partner Mike Misa gets ready for the return during their match against MLTC's Tonyboy Villar and Paolo Sanchez. Santos and Misa won, 8-4.

doubles) and MLTC's McCoy Ginoo (1 point tournament).

The results: Baby Gregorio/Patrick Jeanjacquet (MLTC) def. Albert Chu/Randy Maia (PCA), 8-4; Bob Sabanon/Hermie Loyola (MLTC) def. Raul Sabanon/Ed Reyes (PCA), 8-3; Mike Misa/Ivan Santos (PCA) def. Tonyboy Vil-

lar/Paolo Sanchez (MLTC), 8-4; Joy Sanchez/Elena Duran (PCA) def. Dede Ong/Rose De Guzman (MLTC), 8-0; Gary Murtiz/Mike Padraza (MLTC) def. Charlie Niu/Mike Sy (PCA), 8-5; Jun Toledo/Raymond Villareta (PCA) def. Ace Alcos/Bong Gregorio (MLTC) 8-4; Hanky Lee/Aldrin Geluz (PCA) def. Gigi Tecson/Buggy Delos Reyes (MLTC), 8-7.

## La Union sportsfest up Nov. 2

SURFING WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT event in a three-day multisports competition set Nov. 2-4 at the Urbuzondo Beach in San Juan, La Union.

Dubbed as the La Union Surfing Break II, the event is expected to lure more than 3,000 participants, including speed climbers, frisbee throwers and beach volleyball players.

"When we started this event last year, we were surprised by the number of participants who showed up, mostly students on their semestral breaks, said organizer television per-

sonality Paolo Bediones.

"Our province has been blessed with a surfing place that can accommodate from beginner surfers to the more experienced ones," said Joseph Dumuk, La Union's tourism officer.

A project of the provincial government of La Union, the Tourism Department, DOT Region I, and the municipality of San Juan, the event is supported by San Miguel Corp., Chow King, Mojo Sandals, Asian Spirit, Holcim Philippines, Poro Point Management, Thunderbird Resorts and Jam 88 3.

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## OFW remittances jumped 10.6% in Aug.



**TWIN WIN:** INQUIRER's Doris Dumlaog (2nd from left) and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson (2nd from right) pose for the cameras after receiving their awards as Best Banking Reporter and Best Capital Market Reporter, respectively, during the 16th Eja-Globe Journalism Awards last Friday. With them are (from left) Eja president Money Reyes; Darwin Amojelar of Manila Times, who bagged the Best Feature award; Lenie Lectura of Business Mirror, telecommunication and transportation; Paul Isla also of Business Mirror, energy, and Milwida Guevara, chair of the board of judges.

### Total for first 8 months hit \$9.3B

By Doris C. Dumlaog

**MONEY SENT HOME BY OVERSEAS FILIPINOS** through the banking system surged by 10.6 percent in August from a year ago to \$1.2 billion despite the downtrend in the offshore deployment of new workers, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

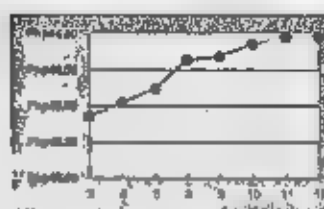
The year-on-year growth in August was faster than the 4.64-percent annual expansion in July and brought total inflows for the eight-month period to \$9.3 billion, 15.3-percent better than the remittances in the same period last year. It was also the 16th straight month

that overseas remittances exceeded the \$1-billion mark.

When the year-on-year growth in remittances fell to a low 1.03 percent in June, there were concerns that these inflows—which had helped cushion the economy from local and

OFW REMITTANCES/B2

### INDICATORS CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

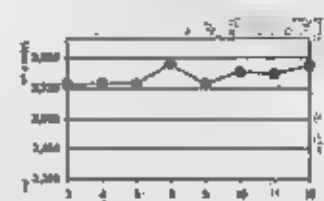
P 44.05 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 15, 2007

### STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B4)

### IN THIS ISSUE

## Gov't probes small-scale miners

By Amy R. Remo

**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.** Secretary Lito Abeniza has ordered an investigation of some small-scale mining operators who have allegedly exceeded production limits and abused the conditions set in their mining permits.

"While only allowed to use picks, shovels and similar implements, some holders of small-scale mining permits have reportedly been using tractors, backhoes and other heavy equipment—a clear violation of their permits," Abeniza said in a statement.

He added that "wealthy investors masquerading as small miners are not only shortchanging the government and the community. Their irresponsible mining activities endanger the environment and threaten the health and safety of the people."

Abeniza issued the warning in the wake of growing concern over the operations of nickel mining company SR Metals Inc. in Tubay, Agusan del Norte.

The firm has reportedly "far exceeded" its allowable annual production of 50,000 metric tons, the extraction ceiling set for any small-scale mining permit.

According to the DENR, the maximum annual production allowed for metallic minerals is 50,000 dry metric tons of "ore, not the metal itself."

For nonmetallic minerals, the allowed maximum annual production is 50,000 DMT of the material itself.

In terms of land area, mining permit holders and contractors are allowed a maximum of only 20 hectares for a single permit or contract area.

Abeniza has already issued an order sus-

pending the operations of SRMI, pending the results of an investigation of the firm's nickel ore mining operations.

The DENR fact-finding team, led by Environment Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio, will determine the extent of SRMI's mining operations and their environmental, social and economic impacts on the communities in the area.

Abeniza said the results of the investigation would also guide the DENR in implementing further measures to curb the unscrupulous activities of small-scale miners with big mining operations.

The small-mining permit of SRMI was granted by the local government of Agusan del Norte.

It allowed the use of artisanal method, commonly known as mano-mano, where only tools like crowbars, hammers and picks can be used.



### Mines lift stocks

SHARE PRICES CLOSED A volatile session 0.97-percent

higher yesterday with miners outperforming, offsetting losses in some blue-chips, dealers said.

The composite index added 37.18 points to 3,861.38 after moving between 3,803.05 and 3,863.35.

There were 72 gainers and 46 decliners while 51 stocks were flat.

A total of 3.6 billion shares valued at P5.2 billion were traded.

Returning from a three-day weekend investors snapped up mining stocks after strong rises in gold spot prices last Thursday, before a mild pullback the following day. Philippine markets were

MINES/B4

**I've been hacked /B3**

**Petron seeks to prevent auction of Bataan property /B5**

## Free Yahoo! Mail text service draws Smart, Globe

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BECOME ONE OF only four global markets for a pioneering service where Yahoo! Mail users can send free real-time text messages to both Smart and Globe subscribers.

"We are initially offering this service to only four markets: The Philippines, Canada, United States and India. There is no doubt that the Philippines is the SMS Capital of the world—with more than 500 million text messages being sent everyday. Yahoo! knows the crucial role that SMS has in communication among Filipinos," Yahoo! senior director of business development Jojo Anonuevo told the INQUIRER via e-mail.

Smart and Globe both acknowledged that convergence could be a win-win situation for various providers and their respective subscribers.

"There are already a number of services where all networks can participate. Yahoo has a huge user base who also happen to be cell phone users, so this is a case where that (non-exclusivity) makes sense," Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto said in a phone interview.

"Ever since we pioneered the partnership

with Yahoo! we have been very pleased with the results. It is a good service for subscribers," added Globe spokesperson Jones Campos.

Yahoo! estimates that there are 14 million Filipinos using the Internet and 85 percent of them use Yahoo! e-mail. An additional eight million Filipinos are seen to start using the Internet next year and Yahoo! expects to attract the majority of these new users.

Worldwide, Yahoo! has a user base of 250 million people.

To promote loyalty among these millions of users, Yahoo! Mail built upon the instant messaging service launched earlier this year. Users can now send free messages to a Smart or Globe mobile phone number directly from their e-mail by selecting "text message" in a panel that shows up when they compose a new mail.

To prevent spam, the recipient of a Yahoo! Mail SMS message is asked whether he wants to receive the text. Yahoo! also limited outbound messages. Yahoo! Mail users can only send four text messages for every one mobile reply. In addition, Yahoo! Mail users cannot send text messages to multiple recipients at the same time because each receiver has to reply before receiving any more messages.

### CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.705517	1.000000	44.1060
Japan	Yen	0.005998	0.008503	0.3750
United Kingdom	Pound	1.435657	2.034900	89.7513
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.090995	0.128976	5.6886
Switzerland	Franc	0.595574	0.844187	37.2328
Canada	Dollar	0.725393	1.028172	45.3486
Singapore	Dollar	0.482207	0.683480	30.1456
Australia	Dollar	0.637900	0.904159	39.6798
Bahrain	Dinar	1.872392	2.653928	117.0541
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.188792	0.267594	11.8025
Brunei	Dollar	0.480565	0.681153	30.0429
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022428	0.031791	1.4022
UAE	Dirham	0.192145	0.272346	12.0121
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.417400	62.5158
Korea	Won	0.000768	0.001089	0.0480
China	Yuan	0.093912	0.133111	5.8710
Denmark	Krone	0.134254	0.190291	8.3930
India	Ruppee	0.018016	0.025536	1.1263
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209477	0.298912	13.0956
New Zealand	Dollar	0.540616	0.774773	34.1721
Sweden	Kroner	0.109866	0.155724	6.8684
Taiwan	New Dollar	0.021858	0.030695	1.3538

Source: Reuters. Prices closing prices as of Oct. 12, 2007. \* Asian time closing rates as of Oct. 12, 2007.

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B

## BUSINESS

## Bank lending up 7.5% to P1.82T

By Doris C. Dumiao

LOANS EXTENDED BY BANKS posted a year-on-year growth of 7.5 percent in August, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The August growth rate outpaced the 6.9-percent year-on-year expansion registered in July. It also marked a turnaround from the 0.4 percent decline in August last year.

In a report, the BSP said that loans extended by banks as of August reached P1.82 trillion. The report included lending by commercial banks, thrift banks and rural banks, net of their lending to the central bank.

"The recent policy rate cut by the BSP could boost further growth in bank lending to the productive sectors of the economy," BSP Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Last Oct. 4, the policy-making

Monetary Board slashed the BSP's benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points, easing its monetary policy for the second time this year, following the US Federal Reserve's sharp rate cuts.

The BSP's key policy rates were reduced to 5.75 percent for overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate and 7.75 percent for overnight lending or repurchase rate, their lowest levels in 15 years.

Tetangco said the continued broadening of the financial markets, which makes non-bank financing increasingly available to the corporate sector, would complement the banks' lending activity.

Most sectors of the economy registered robust growth in loan absorption, led by the transportation, storage and communication sector, whose bank borrowings rose by 15.4 percent. Loans to the construc-

tion sector also grew by 11.9 percent while those extended to the community, social and personal services rose by 4.1 percent.

Lending to financial institutions, real estate and business services posted a 6.4-percent growth while loans to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry rose by 5.7 percent.

By contrast, lending to mining and quarrying, manufacturing, and electricity and water sectors continued to declined from year-ago levels.

"As bank lending fuels both economic activity and domestic liquidity, the BSP will closely monitor developments to ensure that the goal of price stability is maintained," Tetangco said.

Bank lending is a key driver of domestic liquidity growth. It is considered a major indicator of economic activity.

## NFA raises palay buying price by 10%

## Farmers get P11 a kilo plus incentive

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY HAS increased by 10 percent its buying price for palay to boost production and raise farmers' earnings.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the NFA's palay buying price was raised to P11 per kilo from P10.

Also, Yap said farmers would continue to enjoy the incentive of P0.25 per kilo for palay that met NFA's moisture content requirement and delivered to its warehouses.

Farmers' cooperatives will get an additional P0.25-a-kilo incentive if they sell their produce to the government.

The incentives brought to P11.25 per kilo the NFA's buying price for palay from individual farmers and to P11.50 per kilo for those sold by farmer-cooperatives.

The new prices apply to clean and dry palay with 14 percent moisture content, Yap added.

He said the NFA's palay procurement rate would serve as a "price push" mechanism that would influence the buying rates of private traders.

During the current harvest season, the average palay buying price of private traders has been monitored at P11.47 to P12.30 a kilo.

"The agriculture department has been relentless in its efforts to promote the productivity and profitability of our rice farmers," Yap said.

"This recent increase in the palay procurement price will surely boost our local farmers' enthusiasm to produce more, especially with the use of high-yielding hybrid seeds and better inputs, knowing that the government is here to support them," he added.

The last time the government increased its palay procurement price was in December 2004.

The new buying price was approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo upon Yap's recommendation. This, according to Yap, was the government's response to the farmers' clamor for higher NFA buying prices of palay.

NFA Administrator Jessup Navarro said the move would improve the farmers' income and enable them to meet the rising costs of farm inputs.

The NFA buys palay during the main harvest season to prevent an artificial decline in prices and to beef up its buffer stock.

## PAL, Etihad enter into code-share deal

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES HAS started offering Manila-Abu Dhabi flights under a code-sharing agreement with Etihad Airways.

This is PAL's first such commercial deal since exiting receivership last Sept. 28.

The code-share agreement, which became operational on Oct. 4, gives PAL a seat allocation on Etihad's daily service between Manila and the United Arab Emirates capital.

These services are displayed in computer reservations systems as both Etihad (airline code "EY") and PAL ("PR") flights.

PAL has code-share agreements with eight international carriers, enabling the country's flag carrier to serve eight destinations from Manila and three from Cebu. PAL also has an extensive code-share partnership with Air Philippines on the latter's domestic network.

PAL has designated Etihad's Manila-Abu Dhabi flight as PR 621, departing daily at 4 p.m. with same-day arrival in the UAE capital at 8:25 p.m.

The Abu-Dhabi-Manila service is designated as PR 628, with daily departures at 2:05 a.m. and arrival at 2:30 p.m. of the same day.

Riza T. Olchondra

## OFW remittances ...

From page B1

foreign shocks in recent years—might be starting to taper off.

But BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the sustained growth was due to demographic trends in advanced economies, referring to the aging population that, in turn, increased the demand for skilled labor from developing countries like the Philippines.

Tetangco also cited the geographical and skill diversification of Filipinos abroad as well as the efforts of banks and remittance agents to provide overseas Filipinos, including their beneficiaries, enhanced money transfer services and easier access to financial products.

The United States, United Kingdom, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong continued to be the major sources of overseas remittances.

Remittances in the first eight months grew even as the total number of deployed Filipinos declined by 3.7 percent to 726,620 from the level a year ago.

Based on preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the total number of land- and sea-based workers stood at 560,356 and 166,264, lower by 1.6 percent and 10.2 percent from their year-ago levels.

Based on the latest POEA report, the contraction in employment of sea-based workers was due mainly to the shortfall in the supply of marine officers to fill up vacancies in foreign shipping vessels, delays in the issuance of working visas and competition from other Asian and European seafarers.

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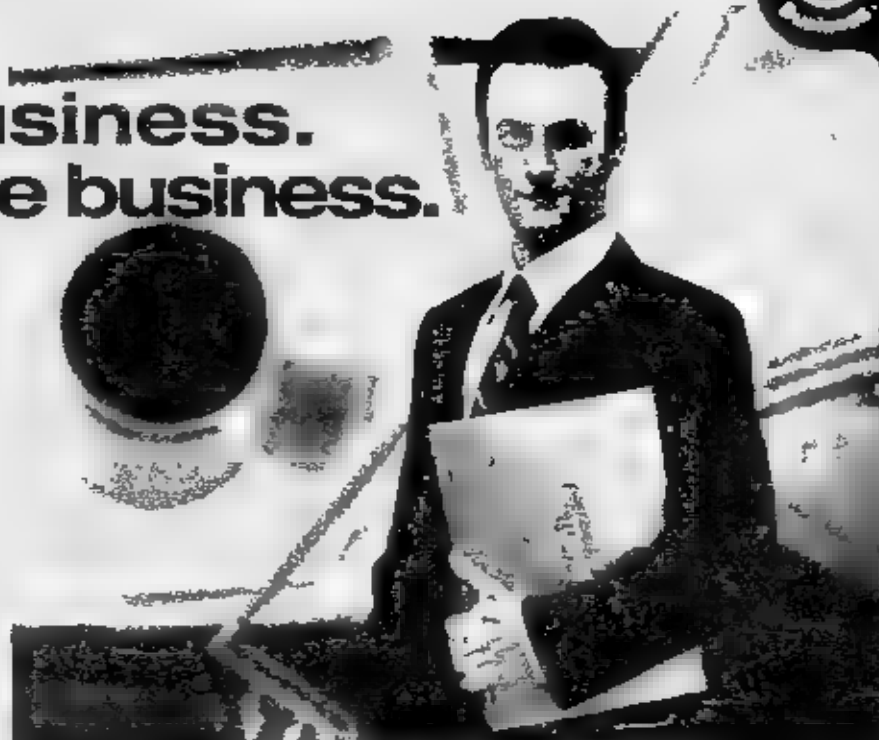
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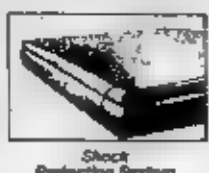
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# Internet, remittance firms' profits surge

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

INTERNET GAMING FIRM PHILWEB CORP reported that its net income surged dramatically by 188 percent to P121.7 million from January to September, from P42.3 million posted in the same nine-month period last year, PhilWeb president Dennis Valdes said.

Likewise, money transfer company iRemit Inc. said that its net income for the first nine months (iRemit) rose sharply by 176 percent to P78.2 million from the P28.3 million of the previous year.

In a statement, PhilWeb reported a 111-percent rise in revenue for the first three quarters to P193.5 million, from P91.5 million in the same period last year.

Valdes planned the strong growth on volume increases from the company's core internet casino and sports betting businesses.

"Not only have we increased the number of our internet casino stations and the number of terminals within those stations, but we continue to realize scale benefits and efficiencies, resulting in better margins," Valdes said.

Year-to-date net income margin is at 62 percent, up from last year's 46 percent.

In the first three quarters of the year, PhilWeb registered three new subsidiaries with the Securities and Exchange Commission: PhilWeb Gaming Solutions Corp., a firm

that develops promotional gaming solutions for outside clients; PhilWeb Leisure and Tourism Corp., a venture to explore leisure and tourism activities; and PhilWeb Tourism and Entertainment Corp., a company to build facilities in this sector. PhilWeb has a "war chest" of about \$10 million.

PhilWeb is a dominant local player in the internet gaming sector, and is a technology enabler of state-led Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Also, money transfer company iRemit said its revenue grew 43.5 percent to P283.8 million for the first nine months from the P197.8 million last year.

Tomorrow, iRemit will be listing its shares, and begin trading a total of 140.6 million shares at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In a statement, iRemit president Harris Jacido said the robust growth in revenue was fueled by a 36-percent increase in remittance volume to \$537 million during the period.

"In addition, net income margins almost doubled to 27.5 percent as further economies of scale were realized from the existing international and domestic network," Jacido added.

Encouraged by its 9-month performance, iRemit expects to more than double its 2007 net income, and sustain the momentum until 2008.

## I've been hacked

I AM NOT IN A GOOD MOOD today because someone hacked into my computer and took control of my e-mail address. The hacker then sent a message to all my contacts saying that I was in Africa with an uncle dying of prostate cancer and asking for a donation of \$2,000. Nobody fell for it because everyone knows that I am here in Manila and the article was written in terrible English. The guy may be a good hacker but he is almost illiterate. I cannot get back into my e-mail because he has changed the password, locking me out.

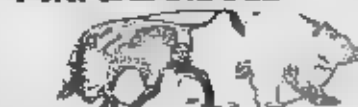
I told Google and wrote repeatedly to the Help Desk but there was no reply even after 3 days. They are probably too busy. If he doesn't use the address for 5 days, they will contact me. In the meantime, I have set up another account, which I sent to subscribers, together with the newsletter. They are recorded in hard copy but contacts and freebies are not, so they were deleted and cannot be traced. It is up to them to call me in the afternoon.

I am not publishing my new e-mail. A lot of readers will be disappointed because, for the past four years, I have been answering thousands of e-mails, advising on stocks, new issues, books, jobs, courses and chart buys. All this will now have to end because, if it is easy to hack into my e-mail once, he can do it again. My 200 articles, with all the jokes written since 2002 were also lost, so there goes my Mr. Bearbull joke book. As a result of this stupid prank, many people will suffer as I always gave advice freely as a public service.

I can imagine how BERNANKER felt when he discovered that the figures he had been given showing declining employment were pure baloney. He would never have cut 50 basis points, given the real figures, and he might well not have cut at all. At most, it would have been 25 basis points. In the FED minutes published in the beige book, he does not mention inflation or the record oil price, the first time this year. He does not mention a recession and states that further cuts will be based on data. I would not be surprised if there is no change on Oct. 30 and by December, he will have another two months of data to help him decide.

The dividend season got underway with ALCOA missing estimates. As a result, the shares fell and the DOW declined 60 points next day. Wal-Mart stated that its 4th quarter would be better than anticipated so the market went down. On Friday, GE announced profits 14 percent higher year-on-year so the market went up again. Every time an important company reports, the entire market moves with the stock. As there are 500 stocks in the S&P index, we can anticipate a yo-yo market for the next three weeks. The only consistent factor is the declining dollar, even Zimbabwe doesn't want them.

### MR. BEARBULL



Ron Naiban

For many years the peso and the baht have been almost at parity with one point separating them. Today the peso is 44 and the baht 34 so the gap is an unprecedented 10 points. Furthermore, the overseas baht is only 31. This makes BNP PARIBAS' forecast of 43 for 2007, 37 for end 2008 and 30 for end 2009 plausible. The fallout would be zero, call centers would have closed down or moved elsewhere, and OFWs would be less inclined to go abroad when their remittances would have lost nearly half their value compared with when the price was 55. Consumer spending would fall, as remittances lost their value, low-cost homes might be affected as OFWs are buying them and the only consolation would be a low rate of inflation due to stable food and oil prices.

China's trade surplus for the first nine months is up 23 percent and the U.S. will clamor for the yuan to be revalued by a significant amount but I don't think the Chinese will allow themselves to be pressured. China should include GDP in the Olympics so they can win the gold medal by a huge margin.

In the US, oil has hit a new record of \$83 a barrel but valued in euro or most other currencies, the rise is much less steep. The PPI (producer price index) rose only 0.1 percent, less than expected. The CPI (consumer price index) is expected later in the week. In the meantime, consumer spending has risen 0.6 percent in September, higher than anticipated. It is far too early to calculate company earnings growth, perhaps in another two weeks, but so far, there are no signs of a recession. Banks are putting up a fund of up to \$75 billion as a backup that could be used to buy risky mortgage securities and other assets, a move designed to ease pressure on a crucial part of the credit market that threatens the broader economy.

In his book, *The Age of Turbulence*, Greenspan writes about himself as a math nerd and a saxophone player in a rock band. Now at 81, he looks back at his sex life as a distant memory. The book is well worth reading and gives a deep insight into the man. It is also written in clear English.

I would like to congratulate Al Gore for winning the Nobel Prize for the discovery of global warming. Without them, we would never have made such great advances in mathematics, computers and most industrial processes.

In the past, I have written many horrible things about my wife but she can be very understanding.

MR. BEARBULL/BS

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Republic of the Philippines  
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**  
PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga  
Lynzee's Bldg., 706 / Rosales Avenue, Butuan City  
Healthline (085) 341-6488, 341-2689 [www.philhealth.gov.ph](http://www.philhealth.gov.ph)

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

#### BIDDING FOR LT. EQUIPMENTS

The PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga (PRO-Caraga) wishes to invite bidders for the following brand new items with warranties:

4 units Laptop	6 units Dot Matrix Printer
20 units Thin Client w/LCD Monitor and UPS	1 unit External SCSI Tape Drive
2 units Heavy Duty DeskJet Printer	1 unit Network Switch-24 ports
3 units LaserJet Printers	6 units Network PC with UPS
6 units Network LaserJet Printer	1 unit 3KVA UPS Rack Mountable

The Government of the Philippines, through PhilHealth, had provided funds for which this invitation is issued. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid is Pp 2,994,000.00.

All interested parties are invited for the Pre-Bid Conference at the PhilHealth Regional Office-Caraga Conference Room, on October 31, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. The bid documents shall be available starting October 31 to November 11, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the General Services Section, Management Services Division through Ms. Anadel G. Ira, BAC Secretariat Head, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pp 3,000.00.

The bidders shall drop the duly accomplished bid documents in a sealed envelope in the bid box located at the Management Services Division, PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on November 12, 2007 at 1:00 P.M. The official time clock shall be the busy clock located at the One-Stop Shop of the said office. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted. Opening of bids will immediately follow at the Conference Room. Any bidder who comes late will not be accommodated.

The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The Bid Security shall be in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the approved budget for the contract in the following forms:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Pp 29,940.00
Bank Guarantee	One & a half percent (1 1/2%)	Pp 44,910.00
Surety Bond (GSIS)	Two & a half percent (2 1/2%)	Pp 74,850.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Pp 2,994,000.00

\*Personal check not accepted

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos.: (085) 341-1200, 342-6982, 342-6988, 341-1159 local 0.

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PhilHealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO S. GONZALEZ, M.D.  
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PO) - October 16 & 23, 2007

Republic of the Philippines  
**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**  
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### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

#### Public Bidding for the OFFICE SPACE RENTAL OF PRO - Caraga

The PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga (PRO-Caraga) wishes to invite ALL COMMERCIAL BUILDING OWNERS to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

**Name of Project:** RENTAL OF OFFICE SPACE  
**Location:** BUTUAN CITY  
**Brief Description:** AT EAST 1530 SQUARE METERS OFFICE SPACE  
**Approved Budget for the Contract:** FIVE MILLION NINETY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (5,090,400.00)  
**Contract Duration:** NOVEMBER 2007 - NOVEMBER 2009  
**Delivery Period:** NOVEMBER 2007

All interested parties are invited for the Pre-Bid Conference at the PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga Conference Room, G/F Lynzee's Building, J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City on October 31, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. The bid documents shall be available starting October 31, 2007 to November 9, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the General Services Section, Management Services Division through Ms. Anadel G. Ira, BAC Secretariat Head, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pp 3,000.00.

The bidders shall drop the duly accomplished bid documents in a sealed envelope in the bid box located at the Management Services Division, PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on November 13, 2007 at 1:00 P.M. The official time clock shall be the busy clock located at the One-Stop Shop of the said office. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted. Opening of bids will immediately follow at the Conference Room. Any bidder who comes late will not be accommodated.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The Bid Security shall be in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the approved budget for the contract in the following forms:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Pp 50,904.00
Bank Guarantee	One & a half percent (1 1/2%)	Pp 76,356.00
Surety Bond (GSIS)	Two & a half percent (2 1/2%)	Pp 127,260.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Pp 5,090,400.00

\*Personal check not accepted

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos.: (085) 341-1200, 342-6982, 342-6988, 341-1159 local 0.

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PhilHealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO S. GONZALEZ, M.D.  
Chairperson, PRO - Caraga Bids and Awards Committee

(PO) - October 16 & 23, 2007



**Mines ...**

From page B1

closed on Friday for a public holiday.

"Phil. Mining and Lepanto Consolidated provide exposure to copper and gold, while Atlas Consolidated and Geograce Resources provide exposure to nickel," Macquarie Securities said in a research note.

"We think these companies stand to benefit from the huge potential of the Philippine minerals industry as well as the government's thrust to revitalize the sector," it added. **AFP**

**PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE**

(As of October 15, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
<b>52-WKS HIGH</b>					
<b>52-WKS LOW</b>					
<b>STOCKS</b>					
Asia Development Bank Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	162,000
Banco de Oro P.O. Inc.	68.5	67.0	66.0	66.0	932,000
Bank of the Philippine Islands	71.5	71.5	70.5	71.0	1,832,900
China Banking Corp.	730	730	720	730	1,420
China Trust Comm'l Banking Corp.	40	40	40	40	800
Citibank Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	3,790,000
Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.46	8,385,900
Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	67	67.5	67	67.5	481,500
Philippine National Bank	56	56.5	55.5	56	1,600
Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	2,988,800
Rural Commercial Banking Corp.	30.5	31	29.5	29.5	137,500
Security Bank Corp.	79	79	78	79	1,089,000
Union Bank of the Philippines	53.5	53.5	53	53	
<b>FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
ATR Kwik Financial Corp.	4.8	4.75	4.6	4.7	30,000
Bankard Inc.	1.98	2.09	1.98	2	6,544,000
Chitong Inc.	12.75	13.5	12.75	13.5	813,300
First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.08	4,000
First Metro Investment Corp.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	2,800
Manulife Financial Corp.	1,865.00	1,875.00	1,865.00	1,875.00	850
Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	1,054,000
PC Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	284,000
The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,005.00	1,105.00	1,005.00	1,105.00	230,920
Wangwang Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	370,000
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>					
Aditya Power Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	2,435,000
East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.4	210,000
First Gen Corp.	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	844,100
First Phil. Holdings Corp.	85	87	86	87	255,500
Manila Water Company Inc.	16.75	17	16.5	17	9,509,500
Manila Electric Company	84	87	84	87	1,212,700
PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.2	32,790,000
Petron Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.6	16,735,000
Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.4	8.2	7.4	8.1	780,000
Salcom Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2,000
Trans Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	2,000
<b>COMMODITIES</b>					
Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	34,000
Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.08	2.08	1.96	2	1,279,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	55	55.5	55	55	987,800

10.75	10	Phil. Tobacco Co. Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	7,300
0.98	0.9	RPM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	620,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	80,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	61	61	61	61	109,200
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.9	63	212,000
0.86	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	30,000
5.9	2	Tanjay Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.9	5.5	5.9	347,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.46	16	4,415,000
0.55	0.26	Unistar Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	870,000
CONSTRUCTION/INFRASTRUCTURE/UTILITIES							
5.1	2.31	ETI Corp.	5	5	4.8	5.3	1,235,000
21.5	6	Federal Res. Investment Group Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.5	382,500
9.2	4.96	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	14,000
2	0.15	Southern Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	34	34	3	7.1	5,152,000
CHEMICALS							
6.1	3.5	Chemtech Technologies Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.7	4.7	5,330,000
2.4	1.31	Euro-Med. Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	1,000
INDUSTRIAL/CONSUMER GOODS							
7.4	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	5,300
0.75	0.145	Pungro Recryst.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	10,700,000
RETAIL/FOODS							
3.9	2.36	A. Sonang Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	52,300
0.17	0.027	Adunat Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.12	9,690,000
1.28	0.23	APC Group Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.83	9,470,000
3.65	1.6	ATN Holdings Inc. A	3.35	3.45	3.2	3.25	2,271,000
3.7	1.6	ATN Holdings Inc. B	3.55	3.65	3.3	3.35	255,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Holdings Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	27,400,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Holdings Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	31,300,000
9.7	5.6	Apollon Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.3	789,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcora Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	105,400,000
7.8	8.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	9,888,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.34	2.34	517,000
615	897.92	Avila Corp.	590	590	570	575	328,800
15.25	7.22	Bacellon Cons. Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	2,000
5.8	1.38	Benares Holdings Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.7	4.75	5,721,000
10.25	4.2	BMC Holdings Inc.	9.7	10.25	8.7	10.25	3,057,000
6.9	1.08	Eon Properties Philippines Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	85,000
2.5	0.7	Fand. P. Inc. Holdings Corp. A	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	43,000
3.55	1.36	Fluorinvest Development Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	15,000
14.5	7	House of Investments Inc.	2.12	2.34	2.12	2.3	101,000
5.9	0.61	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.5	138,700
2.6	1.2	Jollibee Holdings Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.06	2.1	225,000
2.65	1.42	Kapay Philippines Holdings Inc. A	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	1,000
0.85	0.195	Kapay Philippines Holdings Inc. B	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
11.5	1.38	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.84	0.84	390,000
0.28	0.01	Mineral Resources Indus. Corp.	8.2	8.5	8.1	8.3	6,020,000
0.19	0.5	Minerals Indus. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.195	0.22	413,610,000
452.5	246.98	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.89	0.89	550,000
2.1	1.08	SM Investments Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	470,470
0.73	0.13	Seafarm Resources Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	6,000
1.06	0.61	Sinopharm Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.48	25,360,000
1.6	0.8	Solid Group Inc.	0.77	0.81	0.77	0.81	90,000
23	19.25	Southern Resources Inc.	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	50,000
0.75	0.1	T&E Steel Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	2,600
1.1	0.6	Wellco Industries Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.38	0.4	15,130,000
PROPERTY							
2.9	1	A. & B. Realty Inc.	1.42	1.41	1.4	1.4	1,032,000
19.25	11.46	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	162,000
1.65	1.14	Bella Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.42	4,389,000
2.04	1.5	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp. A	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	50,000
2.1	1.7	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp. B	2	2	2	2	60,000
0.68	0.35	Crown Equities Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.48	0.48	500,000
0.58	0.34	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.34	20,000
0.47	0.05	Evergreen Res. & Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	4,060,000
1.48	0.61	Full Estate Land Inc.	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.14	16,429,000
2.44	1.26	Fluorinvest Land Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.88	25,315,000
0.48	0.11	Gatesco Land Inc. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
1.12	0.26	MARC Allied Industries Inc.	0.89	0.71	0.68	0.68	9,040,000
8.4	1.5	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	38,150,000
0.7	0.125	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	1,755,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.39	320,000
9.2	1.28	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	410,000
23	12.75	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	5	5	5	5	6,000
5.9	1.52	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	21	19.75	21	7,770,200
13.5	6.64	SM Development Corp.	4	4	4	4	60,000
3.25	1.18	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12.75	11.75	12.75	16,378,700
1.34	0.46	Shang Properties Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	48,000
0.49	0.09	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	470,000
7.5	3.6	Univ. Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	7,390,000
TELECOM							
38.5	18.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	31	31	145,000
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.6	8.6	1,148,000
UTILITIES							
2.12	1.56	Alfonso C. Alcala & Sons Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	6,235,000
1,740.00	1,085.00	Cable Telecom Inc.	1,663.00	1,740.00	1,645.00	1,740.00	1,000
9,285.00	2,155.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,080.00	3,100.00	3,025.00	3,085.00	195,070
8.1	3.7	Philippine Telephone Corp.	8	8	7.9	8	757,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
0.39	0.1	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.23	5,470,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.4	9.5	8.4	8.5	1,285,000
1.5	0.6	ITC Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1,000
0.085	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	44,000,000
0.32	0.044	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	6,540,000
2.08	1.1	Musica Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	508,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb Com. Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	53,000,000
5.6	3.4	Transpacific Research Corp. Inc.	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.55	22,515,000
TRANSPORTATION/LOGISTICS							
0.8	0.5	Asian Air Freight Inc.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	14,000
47.5	3.5	Int'l Air Cargo Terminal Services Inc.	30.5	37.5	34.5	42	84,000
RETAIL/FOODS							
4.4	1.8	Alfonso C. Alcala & Sons Inc.	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.25	1,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	6	6	4.9	4.9	39,000
0.98	0.31	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.72	1,180,000
2	0.4	Wine & Food Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.93	0.8	0.81	2,220,000
INTERNET SERVICES							
6	1.96	Microdata Corp.	5.1	5.2	5	5.1	950,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	75,000
30	10.5	P. Inc.	12.25	12.25	11	12.25	1,570,000
MINING							
0.01	0.005	Alfonso C. Alcala & Sons Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	162,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.9	1,315,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.9	789,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15	15.75	15	15.5	2,103,200
14.25	8.9	Bentley Corp. A	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	2,000,000
10.5	1.8	Bentley Corp. B	9.8	9.8	8.8	9.4	2,280,000
3.1	0.56	BGC Resources Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.65	39,639,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	88,960,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.38	0.41	0.39	0.41	88,960,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.028	122,800,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	161,600,000
30	1.8	NHAI Minerals Res. Int'l Inc.	21.25	23.5	20.75	23.25	4,026,700
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.013	0.015	711,500,000
9.3	3.4	Philam Mining Corp.	8.2	9.3	8.2	9.3	44,095,000
14.3	11.75	Semarang Mining Corp.	14.6	14.5	14.5	14.5	44,095,000
46	0.42	United Taramon Mining Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.04	850,000,000
1.8	0.39	Unistar Corp.	1.36	1.42	1.34	1.4	20,635,000
OIL							
0.8	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.46	0.38	0.36	0.46	13,500,000
0.029	0.0095	Central Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	237,900,000
0.03	0.009	Central Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	2,700,000
0.032	0.0089	Petrobrum Resources Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	29,100,000
0.032	0.0089	The Petrobrum Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	29,100,000



# Petron seeks to prevent auction of Bataan property

## Bataan officials claim oil firm failed to settle realty taxes since '94

Abigail L. Ho

**INDUSTRY LEADER PETRON** Corp. has sought the help of a Regional Trial Court to stop the Provincial Treasurer of Bataan from auctioning pieces of property at its Bataan refinery.

The Provincial Treasurer claimed that the oil firm failed to settle its realty taxes, spanning 1994 to the first half of 2007, worth some P1.7 billion.

As a result, Bataan officials have scheduled the auction of

Petron's refinery properties tomorrow.

But Petron vice president for legal and external affairs Jose Jesus Laurel said the Provincial Treasurer's claims had no basis, adding that the revised tax assessment was "erroneous, excessive and invalid."

He said Petron had been religiously paying its property taxes over the past years, and was even advancing payments at times.

According to company records, Petron had paid prop-

erty taxes amounting to P1.675 billion, based on previous assessments made or approved by the province.

"The revised assessment of the Provincial Assessor on our properties at the refinery is erroneous, excessive and invalid, and the Provincial Treasurer's actions thereon have no legal basis," Laurel said. "The intention to auction some of Petron's properties on Oct. 17 is highly irregular, and we are prepared to exhaust all legal remedies."

He said Petron had already appealed the assessment to the Local Board of Assessment Appeals.

The oil firm had also submitted its response to the Notice of Delinquent Taxes on its real properties.

Petron's 180,000-barrels-a-day refinery supplies almost 40 percent of the country's total fuel requirements, including those for the power, manufacturing and transportation industries.

## Mr. Bearbull

From page B3

standing. After being married for many years, I said, "Honey, 30 years ago—we had a cheap apartment, a motor bike, a sofa bed and a 10-inch black and white TV. But I got to sleep every night with a hot 20-year-old chick. Now I have a P10-million home, a Mercedes-Benz, a kung-size bed and a 70-inch plasma TV. But I'm sleeping with a 50-year old woman. It seems to me

that you are not holding up your side of things."

Being a very reasonable woman, she said, "Go out and find a hot 20-year old chick." Then she would make sure that I would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Aren't older women wonderful? They really know how to solve your mid-year crisis.

(From Page B6)

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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Finance  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City



COMPANY REGISTRATION AND MONITORING DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF  
REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE  
OF INCORPORATION

X-----X

ORDER

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 141 of the Corporation Code of the Philippines and the SEC Rules and Regulations on Reportorial Requirements, corporations are required to submit annual reports such as the General Information Sheet (GIS) and the Financial Statements (FS);

WHEREAS, the records of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) show that corporations, registered in the year 2001, whose names are enumerated in the attached list marked as Annex "A," failed to submit the above-mentioned reports within the prescribed period;

WHEREAS, the Commission, by virtue of Bates Pamantasan Bldg. 66, Presidential Decree 902-A, as amended, and Republic Act No. 8799, is vested with the authority to revoke, after proper notice and hearing, the primary franchise or certificate of incorporation of corporations, upon any of the grounds provided by law, including the following:

- Failure to formally organize and commence the transaction of business or the construction of works, within two (2) years from the date of incorporation;
- Continuous inoperation for a period of at least five (5) years;
- Failure to file required reports in appropriate forms as determined by the Commission within the prescribed period;

WHEREAS, the Commission sent Notices of Conference/Show Cause Orders, to the subject corporations, directing them, through their directors, trustees, and/or officers, to show cause why their Certificates of Registration should not be revoked for failure to comply with the Commission's reportorial requirements;

WHEREAS, the Notices/Orders sent to the corporations in the attached list marked as Annex "A" are returned by the Post Office to the Commission, for reasons such as insufficient address, unknown address, etc.

WHEREAS, SEC Memorandum Circular No. 4, Series of 2003 provides that in cases where the Commission may deem practicable considering the great number of unknown addresses of corporations involved, the show cause order shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation;

WHEREFORE, NOTICE is hereby given that these corporations, registered in the year 2001, whose names are enumerated in the attached list marked as Annex "A" are directed to appear within thirty (30) days from the date of the publication of this Order before the Law and Regulation Division, Company Registration and Monitoring Department of this Commission at the SEC Bldg., EDSA-Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, or at any of the SEC Extension Offices, during office hours and show cause why their Certificates of Registration should not be revoked.

After the lapse of the said thirty (30)-day period and the said delinquent corporations have not updated their files, as well as, settled the corresponding fines, their Certificates of Registration are considered REVOKED.

Let this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

28 September 2007

(Sgd.) BENITO A. CATARAN

2001 REGISTERED CORPORATIONS  
LIST OF RETURN TO SENDER

SEC REGISTRATION #	COMPANY NAME
A200100001	12 SEVENTEEN LEMBO CORPORATION
A200100002	187 STREET BANANA BLUE 37 VENDORS ASSOCIATION INC.
A200100003	2151 STY CORPORATION
A200100004	234 VENDORS ASSOCIATION, UPLA, MATANGNAS BALAWA OLG. INC.
A200100005	4 PCA HOLDINGS INC.
A200100006	AKUPHILS CORP.
A200100007	AKUPHILS INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES INC.
A200100008	AKUPHILS PRIVATE INC.
A200100009	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100010	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100011	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100012	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100013	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100014	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100015	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100016	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100017	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100018	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100019	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
A200100020	AKUPHILS TRADING CORPORATION
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## LUISA STO DOMINGO PACLEB

BELCAP FOUNDER  
of  
Moncada, Tarlac and Quezon City

Has peacefully returned to the arms of the Lord on October 14, 2007  
at the age of 70.

She is survived by her husband Col. Felipe J. Pacleb (Ret.); children Junie, Jeng, Jessie, Grace and Pip; grandchildren Batchi, Celine, Vinnie, Vanessa, Gilbert, Aica, Alex, JP, Ysa, AJ, Manong, Gabo, Karla, PJ, Paco.

Her remains lie in state at Maria dela Strada Chapel, Katipunan, Quezon City.

Cremation & interment will be announced later.

### DEATH NOTICE

#### MANUEL S. APARIS

Peacefully joined  
his Creator on  
October 13, 2007

His body lies in  
state at Holy Trinity  
Chapel, Sucat  
Parañaque.

Interment will be  
on October 16, 2007 at  
3:00 p.m. at Manila  
Memorial Park, Sucat  
Parañaque after the  
1:30 p.m. mass.

#### FELIPA SAGAT ALONZO

August 17, 1918 -  
October 13, 2007

Her body lies in  
state at Loyola  
Guadalupe, Makati  
and will be  
transferred to her  
house in Rajal Sur,  
Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija  
on October 17.

Interment is on  
October 21 at  
Zaragoza Cemetery  
in Nueva Ecija

## LUZ BORRROMEO SEVERINO

Now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace  
of our Lord. She joined our Creator on  
the 14th October 2007 at the age of 92

Her loving husband Ricarte G. Severino (†), her  
children Ramona & Johnny (†), Salvador, Josefina  
& Artemio Bang-asan, Totti & Cynthia Severino,  
Bong & Precy Severino, grandchildren Nino (†),  
Sylvia, Nini, Timmy, Sammy, Francis, Eman,  
Connie, Toots and all relatives and friends, request  
to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels,  
Sucat

Interment will be on Saturday, October 20, 2007 after  
the 9:00 A.M. mass at Loyola Memorial Park.

## LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. 712-3001; 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF BURIAL	DATE & TIME OF BURIAL	INTERMENT CREMATION
RAFAEL R. TEODORO	Chapel 12-A	To be announced later	To be announced later
LOLITA GAFFUD ALCANTARA	Chapel 7	17 October 2007 2:00 p.m.	Paz Crematory

So sadly missed and lovingly remembered  
on his fourth anniversary  
of passing on to eternal life

# Gregorio L. Medrana

September 23, 1937 - October 16, 2003  
(Retired) PAL 747-400 CAPTAIN

Masses has been offered on the following Churches:

1. San Beda College Chapel ..... 7:30 a.m. - Oct. 16, 2007  
Alabang Muntinlupa City
2. Parish of the Resurrection ..... 6:30 p.m. - Oct 16, 2007  
BF Homes, Parañaque City
3. Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish ... 6:45 a.m. - Oct. 16, 2007
4. Redemptourist Church Baclaran ..... 6:00 a.m. - Oct. 16, 2007
5. San Jose Village Chapel ..... 9:00 a.m. - Oct. 14, 2007  
Alabang Muntinlupa City
6. St. Jerome & Susan Church ..... 6:00 a.m. - Oct. 16, 2007  
Alabang Muntinlupa City

His loving widow Sonia Lauyan-Medrana; his children  
and grandchildren request friends & relatives and to all  
those whose lives he had touched to please pray for Daddy Greg's  
soul for his eternal peace and joy in heaven.

## CLASSIFIEDS



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM  
Elipical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (SECURITY SERVICES)

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of Seventeen Million Five Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Pesos (P17,534,880.00) being the approved budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Security Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The DAR now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for 81 Security guards including 1 Detachment Commander and 3 Shift-in-Charge/Supervisors. The Contract for Security Services shall be for a period of six (6) months from January 2008 to June 2008. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-AD) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and is restricted to Filipino citizen/sole proprietorship or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only bids from bidders who pass eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bids (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the lowest calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Agrarian Reform Bids and Awards Committee (DAR-BAC) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. starting October 17-23, 2007.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

The DAR - BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 24, 2007 10:00 a.m. at HRD Training Center, DAR Compound, Elipical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 8, 2007. Late bids shall not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in either of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
GSIS Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check or Bank Draft	One percent (1%)

Bid opening shall be on November 8, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative who chooses to attend the opening of bids.

The DAR BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Department of Agrarian Reform  
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat  
Elipical Road, Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel. No. 9261891, 926-9886, 9287031 loc 511

(Sgd.) GERUNDO C. MADUEÑO  
Undersecretary, SSO  
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct. 16 & 22, 2007)

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On the instruction of South Gold Garments

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Auctioning: Wednesday, 17 October 2007 - 18:00 CCT (Local Time)

Location of the Assets: Cavite, Philippines

(2)TAJIMA Embroidery Machines; VEITH Pinning Table System; (3) NGAI SHING Pneumatic Steam Pocket Creasing Machines; (2) HASHIMA Fusing Press Machines; EASTMAN/MARUSAN Band Knife Cutting Machines; (3) EASTMAN Cloth Cutter; (40) NGAI SHING Vacuum Pressing Tables; RE-MERS Electric Boiler; (3) PEACOCK Tumble Dryers; PEACOCK Hydro Extractor; (2) PEACOCK Industrial Sewing Machines; NGAI SHING/CUSTOM Fabric Inspection Machines; CHENG FENG Collar Turner; HASHIMA Adjustable Folder; (5) JUKI Two Bottom Cover Stitching Machines; (34) YAMATO Overlocking Machines; (10) PEGASUS Overlocking Machines; (17) JUKI High Speed Sewing Machines; KANSAI Gartering Machine; GENERAC 100 kva Generator Set

For more details please visit our website at [www.goindustry.com](http://www.goindustry.com) & search for  
Garment Manufacturing Equipment, Sewing Machines and Plant Services



Contact: Mike Ramos  
Tel: +63 2 822 5555 Loc: 129  
[mike.amos@goindustry.com](mailto:mike.amos@goindustry.com)

## NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

## NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

## ANNOUNCEMENT to our valued advertisers

PDI Kalaw branch has been transferred to:

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## COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

Filing of Certificates of Candidacy for the  
BANTAGAY and SANGGUNIANG  
KABATAAN ELECTIONS

starts September 29 up to October 18, 2007 (excluding  
Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except  
on the last day, when offices will be open up to 12:00 midnight) at the  
Office of the Election Officer of the concerned city/municipality



Education and Information Department  
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## St. James Academy reunion

MALABON-JAMER BATCH '86 sis, Quezon City For inquiries,  
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"Balik Tanaw" on December 09189379587 look for Arnold  
29, 2007, 5:00 p.m. at the Oa- Naval or Bernice.

## More Classifieds on pages

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DOLE-NCR  
PhilHealth - Security Services  
PhilHealth - Office Space Rental  
PhilHealth - I.T. Equipments  
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### NOTICE TO BID

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(PDI Oct 16, 2007)

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### ERRATUM

In the NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC  
advertisement of ScanAsia Overseas  
Inc. published on this paper on  
October 14, 2007, the  
OR # 136453 is not included on the  
missing OR's.

Our apologies.



# Join the Elite Circle in Greenbelt, Makati.



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The Art of Living <sup>Extraordinarily</sup> Well

Greenbelt Chancellors puts you literally steps away from a whole lot of important places. From the most prestigious offices to the snazziest shops and restaurants. From the latest entertainment houses to the most modern medical centers and the finest schools.

An incomparable location is just one of the reasons why Greenbelt Chancellors is the first choice of Makati's smart set. For one, its executive studios to three-bedroom suites come pre-furnished with first-rate furniture and home appliances. Then, too, wide windows bring you stunning views of Greenbelt and the city. And you can relax in private at the seventh-level play deck, with its lap pool, fitness center, spa and lush garden.

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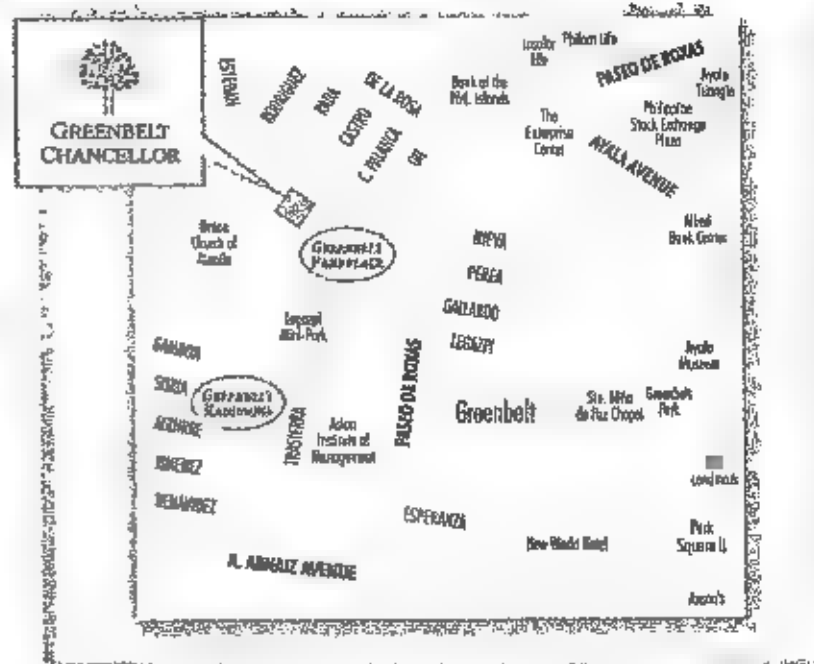
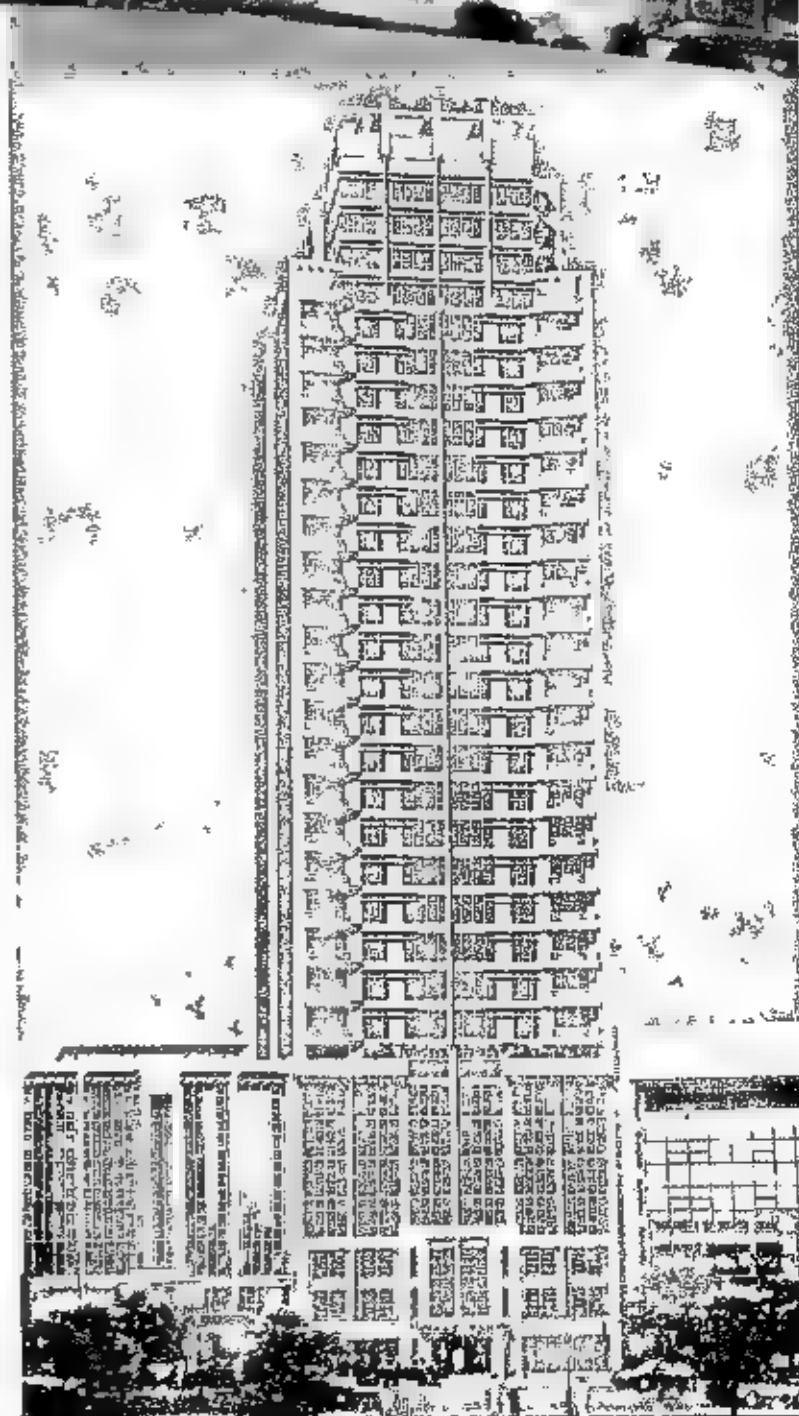
Come to our Open Houses:  
Oct. 17 (Wed.) 9 am to 10 pm  
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## Health and wellness tips /C4

# LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Send feedback: inquire life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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## Two teas make new weight-loss formula

By Anne A. Jambora

MANY PEOPLE who have tried numerous fad diets have decided there is no magic pill to burn fat and there is no universal magic formula to lose weight.

But Jorge Hané, known to his followers throughout the world as the "international weight-loss guru," seems to be selling just that.

Hané, a former television producer and businessman based in Miami, Florida, said he went back to school more than 14 years ago to study nutrition when there was a demand from viewers for a product to complement his fitness video.

Hané says his product works for 78 percent of users as each body reacts differently



JORGE Hané with wife Florencia K.

He said he then developed an all-natural weight loss formula. He brought it to specialists, doctors and healthcare advisors for the precise mixture.

Only after the product passed tests for efficiency by several laboratories, including one in France, did he begin to produce and sell what became the Jorge Hané Reduce Fat-Fast.

Now available in more than 70 countries, Hané said in the United States alone 55 percent of sales relied on word of mouth—"people talk about it because it works."

The pill is taken 20-30 minutes before mealtime three times a day. (In the Philippines, Reduce Fat-Fast is available only at Value Vision, tel. 8993515.)

The ingredients? Green and java teas.

"The green tea works as a fat

burner, eliminating excess body fats, while the java tea acts as a diuretic, flushing out excess water. If you eliminate body fat and water, you lose weight," Hané said.

### Conflicting

Reports on green tea's ability to help people lose weight are conflicting. Studies saying green tea helps boost the metabolism and burn fat in a significant way are mostly sponsored by companies producing green tea beverages.

Other studies suggest green tea may give only a slight boost to the metabolism and burn an additional 60 calories more if taken four to five times a day.

Downing Jorge Hané Reduce Fat-Fast pill, however, is equivalent to drinking 10 cups of green tea. Taking the pill three times a day will be equivalent to drinking 30 cups of green tea.

A unique granulation system produces a tea as fine as powder. Hané said this made it easier for the body to absorb the tea.

"Since the product came out in the market 14 years ago I have never encountered any complaints for side effects. It is the only natural product in the world that went through five clinical studies to prove that it works," Hané said.

But he cautions people not to

TWO TEAS / C4



"Pag umulan sa handaan mo, nararaming swerte ang Goldilocks."

**That's S pinoy!**

Swerte ka ngayong tag-aral, dahil may kumakainag Best Mga na Goldilocks.

**That's S pinoy!**

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**TATLER's** editor in chief Anton San Diego gets the new Carolina Herrera 212 Splash.



**TALL**, handsome Joey Server with the Carolina Herrera 212 Splash



**ANTON** Mendoza loves the fresh scent of Carolina Herrera 212 Splash.



**SIGALIT** Djemel loves Dolce & Gabbana The One as "it blends with my skin very well."



**PEPPER** Teehankee's choice is Gucci Pour Homme II. "The scent is musky and strong ... I like it strong!"



**MY** choice is Carolina Herrera 212 splash.



**JOJIE** Dingcong holds Lacoste Elegance. "Something old is new again," he says.



**SOUTHERN** beauties: Cacay Moras adores D&G The One while it's Nina Ricci for Liza Tan.



**ANTON** Barretto picks Gucci Pour Homme II; Malu Gamboa and Abba Napa both love D&G The One.



**ROSE** Montenegro picks Hugo Boss Femme; Pam Fianza, Escada; and Angela Montenegro Arroyo, Nina Ricci.



**IT'S** Gucci Pour Homme II for ASIAN Spirit chair Noel Oñate, with Audrey Santa of RMK

## Scent-ful party for the chosen 30

**W**HEN THE EVER RELIABLE Rustan Marketing Corp (RMK), exclusive Philippine distributor of premium scents, asked *moi* to host an exclusive, take note *palangas*, fragrance party for 30 guests of my choice, I accepted faster than you could bat an eyelash.

Why unique? After each invitee took a whiff of all the fragrances on display, they were gifted with the brand they liked most. Now, *palangas*, that ain't bad at all, *n'est-ce pas?*

The posh Manila Peninsula was the scene of this party that was an exhilarating olfactory odyssey from beginning to end.

Setting the mood for this first-ever "sniffing session" were champagne, wine and booze to down the delectable *hors d'oeuvres* and super Thai food prepared by the hotel's excellent chefs.

A pianist played popular classics and standards.

The ambiance of the Balagtas function room was that of a high-end New York cocktail lounge, dahlings, showcasing dramatically the stars of the night—best-selling and upcoming fragrances from global fashion brands, all available at Rustan's, natch.

The *du* invitees sprayed and snuffed to their hearts' content, filling the venue with heavenly scents, *palangas*: Lacoste Elegance, a sophisticated fragrance for the man who thrives on complexities; Gucci Pour Homme II, intensely desirable, befitting the effortlessly stylish Gucci man, etc. with Carolina Herrera 212 Men Splash, a crisp and refreshing blend of citrus notes, being the men's favorite for the night.

For the women, there were Elizabeth Arden's Mediterranean, radiant, and sensual reflecting the glamour of Capri and Sardinia; Escada's unique aroma of hazelnut for passionate and vibrant women, D&G The One, a sensual and glamorous concoction of mandarin and vanilla for the ultimate diva; Nina, a deliciously bewitching scent of lemons, lime, and florals; Very Irresistible Givenchy Sensual consisting of five types of roses; Vanilla, for the woman exhibiting glamorous sensuality; Kenzo Amour, with white tea, cherry blossoms, and thanaka wood, for bohemian chic; and Femme by Boss, breathtakingly feminine with notes of various white

flowers, apricot and soft amber.

Going home with their chosen scents were my pals like Rose Montenegro, her sister Angela M. Arroyo and their pal Pam Fianza. Ipe Cruz was happy with his Carolina Herrera 212, which was also Philip Cu-Unjieng's choice. Mega Magazine mega editor in chief Pauline Juan and tall, handsome Joey Server were also happy with their choices.

Arriving fashionably on time were socialites Nonie Basilio, Tessie Rodriguez, Mimi Valerio and Nini Layug. Dashing in lateish direct from the airport was adorable and brilliant Mila How.

It was supposed to end at 8:30 p.m. but loads of guests lingered till way past 9:30 p.m., *après* which some close friends and *moi* moved to the hotel's Mi Place Resto for a superb Italian dinner.

### Sweet event

Now, who does not love chocolates, *palangas*? It's one of the sweetest things. Another sweet thing is saying thank you with a smile, *n'est-ce pas?*

So the shocking news blew my socks off. *Cosmo Manila* was ranked among the least courteous cities in the world. Well, now the yummy chocolate Toblerone has come to the rescue, with the full support of *Manille's* most dynamic Mayor Alfredo Lim, no less, *palangas*.

We thank him for launching the National Thank You Day at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La, marking the beginning of an initiative to give *Manille* a crash course on courtesy.

"Toblerone, being a symbol of gratitude worldwide, was drawn to the idea of helping Metro Manila and the Philippines revive the lost art of saying thank you," says Jondy Syjuco, marketing manager, natch.

The event blasted off with awesome performances by two of the country's hottest bands, Salindwa and Mozzie. True Rauti dished out songs written specially for the event, *palangas*.

Tons of invitees watched the colossal screen project videos of thank you notes, interviews with passersby, and clips of albums by various recording artists written exclusively for the Toblerone Thank You Day campaign.

"With National Thank You day set to cul-

### WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare



**BEAUTIFUL** couple Divine Lee and Arturo Cartulinas bring home D&G The One and Carolina Herrera 212 Men Splash.



**MIA** Borromeo and JR Isaac go for Nina Ricci and Gucci Pour Homme II, respectively.



**WEBER** Shandwick's Mike Toledo prefers Carolina Herrera.



**VICKI** Zubiri and Bettina Osmena both love Elizabeth Arden Mediterranean.



**ILOILO's** Beverly Rosales gets Nina Ricci, and Nonoy Ybiernas, Carolina Herrera 212 Men, splash.



**SCHIZO-POP** band Mozzie with Toblerone's brand manager Gerald Blanco at the launch



**HELOISE** Romualdez, Visions & Expressions mega president Susan Joven, and Ching Cruz and Agnes Huibonhwa who both chose Nina Ricci



**WOMEN** achievers who rock! Bridges@com's Riza Torres, Becky Garcia, Anlene marketing manager Ming Arroyo, event host Chiqui Hollman-Yulo and Olympic swimmer Akiko Thomson



**ANLENE** ambassador Dina Bonnevie



**FITNESS** guru Jackie Lou Blanco



**"TEMPESTUOUS** Tempers" by Cynthia Alexander features a unique beat.

minate in a grand celebration of gratitude on the 20th of October at the Mall of Asia, Toblerone not only brings a nation closer together through this initiative, but gives them a unique opportunity to show their appreciation and gratitude for the people who have brought a dash of sweetness into their lives," said GeiserMaciang's not shot Brad Geiser.

Hey, check out the first ever Thank You Day Celebration this Saturday, Oct. 20, at the SM Mall of Asia.

### Record-setting

How can you beat seven gorgeous, fit and active women who continue to live their dreams in their golden years?

We found out how some of them do it. Thanks to Anlene, osteoporosis is not on these ladies' agenda.

Still glam and doing her signature stretch bend is Piluta Corrales, queen of song Daughter Jackie Lou Blanco is a top fitness guru.

Former Miss Universe Margie Florendo does her backbreaking Hablat for Humanity work. Dance empress Becky Garcia just wants to keep dancing. Akiko Thomson, now looking shapelier, isn't going to give up her love of swimming. Rosita Gomez, 61 years young, does incredible splits, her dream of becoming a ballerina coming true after drinking Anlene.

Another Anlene woman, host Chiqui Hollmann-Yulo charmed the women with her humor. The queen of them all is the ambassador of the Anlene Movement, Dina Bonnevie. You can't keep track of what this diva does in films, television, sports and dance.

Nancy Crowe of Hot Legs demonstrated the fast-paced Anlene Dance that will be introduced on World Osteoporosis Day, Oct. 20, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex. Anlene ladies will attempt a Guinness world record, hoping to beat Ireland with the most number of women dancing in one assembly!

So what's their secret? "Drink two glasses of Anlene and make 10,000 steps daily so that every woman can live the active and fulfilling life that these seven women do."



## INNER AWARENESS

Jaime Licaucó

## State of Psi knowledge in the Philippines

PARAPSYCHOLOGY IS THE science that deals with the paranormal and psychic phenomena.

But, regrettably, not much progress has been achieved by this science in terms of new discoveries or new knowledge since its acceptance as a member of the scientific community in 1969.

No dramatic revelation has been made since Dr. J. B. Rhine started his pioneering scientifically controlled experiments on ESP in the 1930s. On the contrary, the science has remained as controversial as when it first started.

Some members of the orthodox western scientific community even referred to parapsychology as a "pseudo-science," which is rather an unfair and biased remark.

Despite this, there are universities in several western countries that offer higher degrees in parapsychology.

## Not included

In the Philippines, the situation is worse. There is no school of higher learning that includes parapsychology in its curriculum.

The few times this science was included in an academic setting were in 1982, when I taught a one-semester elective subject on Parapsychology under the Behavioral Science Department of De La Salle University; and in 2004-2006 when I taught New Age Philosophy and Parapsychology under the Department of Philosophy in San Beda College.

After teaching for one semester at De La Salle University, a former seminar participant, Dr. Lane Chua-Garcia, revived the class in Parapsychology at DLSU. But it was discontinued after a few years and the subject became just a part of the course in psychology.

The bias against parapsychology by the scientific and academic communities in the Philippines has remained very strong, despite great interest shown by students of various schools in learning more about this subject.

In the last 25 years, I have been besieged by students from various colleges and universities for interviews on different aspects of extrasensory perception (ESP) and paranormal phenomena as part of their research projects.

There were times I had to decline interviews and speaking invitations for lack of time.

## Serious matter

On the other hand, in the former Soviet Union and her allies in Eastern Europe, parapsychological subjects have always been taken seriously. But the Soviets call the science by different names, such as Psychotronics Research, Bioenergetics, or even Biophysics. Those who

engaged in such research were mostly mathematicians, engineers and physicists, not psychologists or sociologists as one would expect.

Since the interest of Russian and Eastern European scientists was more on the practical application of such powers or phenomena, rather than merely proving they exist, they made much more progress in the field compared to their American and Western counterparts.

Russian parapsychologists have focused their research in finding cures for cancer, increasing the yield of agricultural and dairy products, and even assist-

ing in crime detection.

## No qualifier

In the Philippines, nobody qualifies to be called a parapsychologist because there is no school offering an academic degree on this science.

But there are several local characters who have proclaimed themselves to be such, but they are not recognized at all by any respectable local or foreign organization.

I myself cannot claim to be a parapsychologist, although I have written more than 15 books on paranormal and psychic phenomena (some of which have been translated into foreign languages) because

I do not have a formal degree to show for it. Nevertheless, my works have been cited in several scientific publications all over the world.

One reason for the lack of serious interest in parapsychology in the Philippines is religion. The Philippine population is 80-85 percent Catholic. And a very conservative one at that.

The field studied by parapsychologists have falsely been identified with the evil forces in the minds of the conservative public and even by some members of the clergy. Some of

them have the mistaken notion that studying paranormal phenomena would be in conflict with their religious beliefs, which is not the case at all.

Parapsychology is a science and has nothing to do with religion. Like any other science, it seeks only to understand the veracity or validity of a psychic ability or phenomenon and not to change or influence a person's religious beliefs.

This misunderstanding has led to the avoidance by the academic community of various studies of this field.

This is really unfortunate be-

cause the Philippines has a lot to offer in terms of diversity of paranormal and mystical happenings. Most of them have remained unrecorded and unheralded, so people outside the Philippines, and even those living in the country, do not realize our rich paranormal and mystical heritage.

*Note: For more information about the next ESP & Intuition Development seminar, please call tel. nos. 8107245 or 8926806, or e-mail the author at innerawareness\_2005@yahoo.com.*

## MEDICard - the real care it deserves!

## What are the treatment methods for breast cancer?

The battle to treat Breast Cancer is Multidisciplinary in approach, which means it involves different fields of specialization. The pathologist is tasked to make the histologic diagnosis of malignancy and it is only then that surgeons, medical oncologists and the radiation oncologists work hand in hand to proceed with the treatment. There are two major modalities of breast cancer treatment. The first is the Locoregional Treatment Modality which involves surgery (actual removal of the tumor in the breast or the whole breast itself) and Radiotherapy-teletherapy (cobalt, linear accelerator) subjecting the breast area and other adjacent fields to radiation to kill cancer cells. The second is the Systemic Treatment Modality which involves: 1) Cytotoxic Chemotherapy, which is given intravenously and orally, 2) Hormonal therapy which is taken orally for extended periods of time for hormone sensitive tumors, 3) Immunologic therapy—to administer tumor specific immune effector to patients. Chemotherapy can be given before surgery (neoadjuvant) to reduce tumor bulk or make the tumor operable and after surgery (adjuvant). For early breast cancer (Stage I and Stage II), treatment goal is to cure while palliation (improving the quality of life) for locally advanced and metastatic breast cancer (Stage III and Stage IV).



This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Manila East Medical Center and Queen Mary Help of Christians Hospital in Rizal, Dr. Dennis Emergentia Dela Cruz, MD, a specialist in Internal Medicine. He earned his medical degree from Manila Central University (MCU) in 1993, followed by his residency training for Internal Medicine in 1999. He later took his subspecialization training in Oncology in 2007. He is affiliated with the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology and Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists. He is married to Dr. Mary Rose A. Dela Cruz, MD, with two children. MEDICard members may visit him for consultation at Manila East Medical Center, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 am to 12 noon and Queen Mary Help of Christians Hospital, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at [inquiry@medicardph.com](mailto:inquiry@medicardph.com) for your inquiries on health matters.

## Take Charge Doc!



Nicky

## Your Doctor Knows Best

Felicite Gay P. Martinez-Lapus, MD, FPCP, FPSMO, FPSO

## Question:

I am 45 years old and was diagnosed to have breast cancer. What are my treatment options?

## Doctor Says...

(Continuation from last week's column)

Locally advanced breast cancer, as opposed to early or metastatic disease, has one or more of these features: tumor size is large; usually >5 cm, may have spread to the lymph nodes beyond the axilla (i.e. neck or chest nodes) or to the other tissues around the breast (i.e. skin and muscle). The patient may also have thickened, dimpled skin like an orange peel, an open wound (ulcers) on the skin of the breast, a mass that extends to the chest wall or multiple, small masses around the primary tumor (satellite nodules). You may notice these breast changes, which your doctor will confirm upon initial history and physical examination.

Your menopausal status, pre- or post-menopausal is likewise important to note, as certain treatment options will benefit one over the other.

Management for locally advanced breast cancer still involves the usual combination of the four treatment modalities: surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and hormonal therapy. Treatment varies according to individual circumstances. For locally advanced disease though, systemic therapy (chemo- or hormonal therapy) may be the initial option to use instead of surgery or radiotherapy.

Chemotherapy is the use of drugs to kill cancer cells. You may receive this treatment in the neo-adjuvant setting or before localized therapy (radiotherapy or surgery) is instituted. This is done to reduce the size of the breast mass and at the same time destroy cancer cells found on other parts of the body not detected by routine tests. This action of downgrading the tumor may also be addressed by the use of hormonal therapy. These are drugs that

specifically target hormone sensitive cancer cells by depriving them of estrogen, the female sex hormone that induces cancer growth. Hormone sensitivity is determined by obtaining assays of estrogen and progesterone receptors from the tumor. More than half of patients with breast cancer will have hormone sensitive tumors and thus, may benefit from this kind of treatment.

The success of systemic therapy may then be augmented by radiation therapy of the affected breast, axilla, neck & other surrounding areas, to further control local spread of the disease. Only a minority of patients may require surgery as a means of local control. They are usually those who continue to have ulcerated, weeping lesions not responding to the modalities of treatment mentioned above.

All options for the treatment of locally advanced breast cancer carry some risk of side effects. Most side effects are manageable. Consider the benefits you can receive from the treatment along with the possible side effects.

The management of breast cancer, regardless of the extent of the disease, requires a team approach. Each specialty (surgeon, medical oncologist, radiation oncologist, pathologist, psychiatrist, to name a few) will play a significant role in the optimum care for the patient. It is best to always discuss with your doctor/Doctors your concerns.

The treatment options for metastatic breast cancer will be discussed in next week's column.

Dr. Martinez-Lapus is an Internal Medicine Oncologist. She is a consultant of the Danao Doctors' Hospital and of the Danao Medical Center. She has her clinic at the Medical Tower of the Danao Doctors' Hospital, Danao City. Dr. Martinez-Lapus is also an Assistant Professor II at the Danao Medical School Foundation.

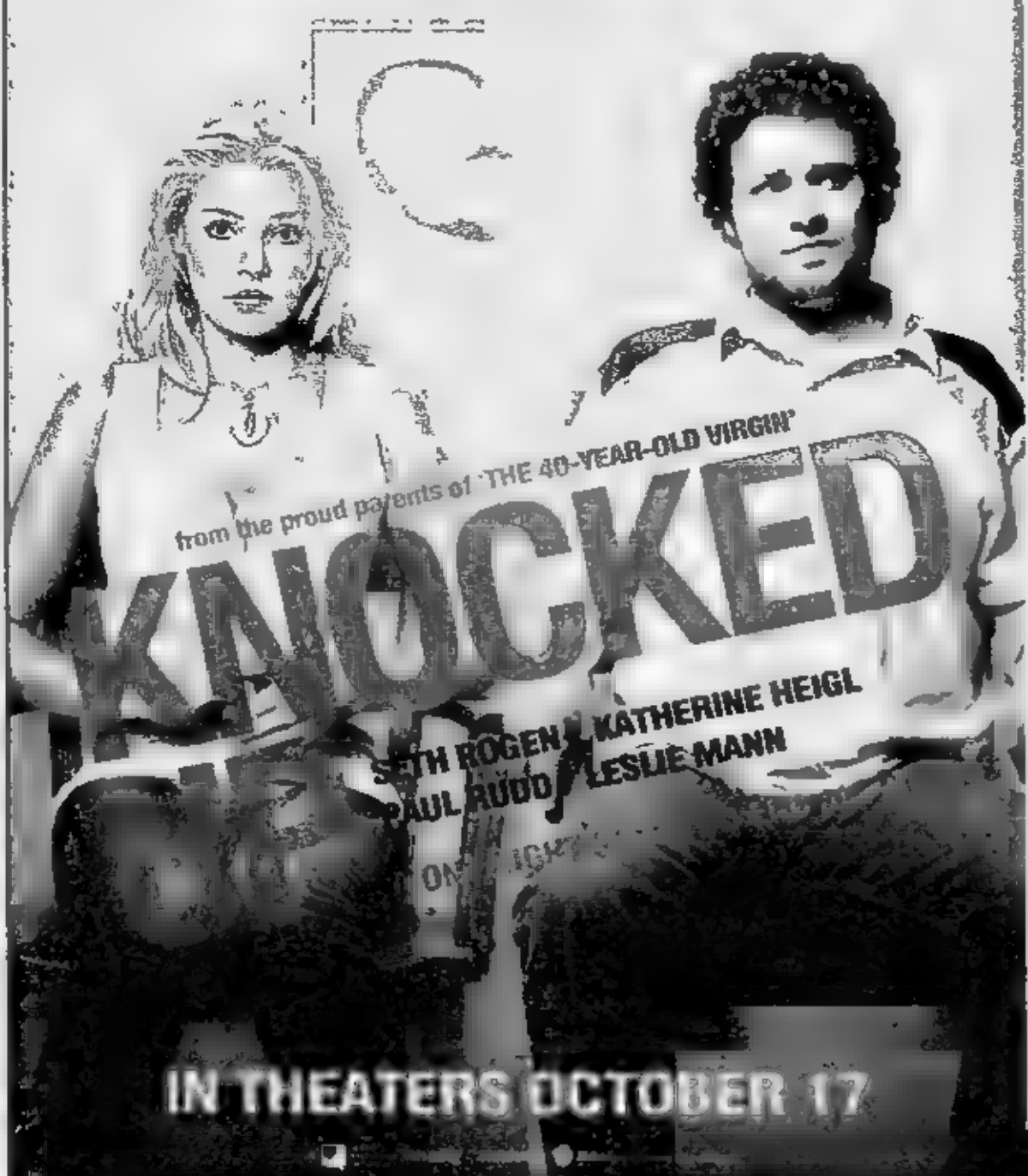
This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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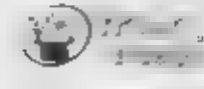
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**INSIDE OUT**  
Cory Quirino

## Some health and wellness facts

**T**HIS IS THE AGE OF INFORMATION and technology. And more vistas are opening up for inquisitive minds who thirst for knowledge.

Let us look at some basic facts about health, beauty and well-being.

- There is a strong connection between nutrition and disease. Deficiencies in certain vitamins could lead to afflictions.

A lack of vitamin C may lead to skin problems and scurvy. There is no real overdose limit for vitamin C as it is water-soluble and released through the kidneys within hours. Drink enough water.

Very low amounts of magnesium in the body may cause muscle cramps at night or a sluggish heart. A lack of potassium can lead to weakness and exhaustion while lack of vitamin A may affect vision (especially at night).

If you do not get enough vitamin A in your diet, your body will get it from the liver where 90 percent of the body's vitamin A is stored. Vitamin A is one of your best protections against cancer.

### Self-healing

- The human body has the resources to heal itself provided you have a healthy lifestyle. The human body is looked upon as a whole entity. Certain things can directly influence good or bad health—diet, work, lifestyle, genetics, emotional and mental balance.

Though people may have the same disease, the reason they developed it may vary. In short, your lifestyle can cause or prevent a disease.

In placing great emphasis on prevention, natural medicine may enhance a person's

general health and longevity. The factors that contribute to greater well-being are: stress management, high-nutrition diet, exercise and a proactive health regimen.

- The best way to prevent diabetes or to maintain normal blood sugar level is to eat regularly. It is as simple as that.

Beware of temporary starvation as a form of dieting. Your body may develop a hypothyroid condition without your noticing it. Tell-tale signs include dizziness, weakness, chills. To prevent this, eat on time every day.

### Brain food

- Lack of carbohydrates will starve the brain. The main food of the brain is glucose that comes from carbohydrates. But there are other things that feed the brain: fruit, vegetables; poultry without the skin (lean



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

meat); dried beans (legumes, peanuts), walnuts and almonds; fatty fish (salmon, sardines, mackerel, shellfish), and fish-oil capsules.

Limit consumption of the following: sugar, sodium, processed foods (especially if cooked in hydrogenated oils).

- Fight depression by eating more fish. Moods are directly influenced by fish oil. Studies have shown that if you have a diet rich in fish, chances are your serotonin levels are high as well. Serotonin is a feel-good hormone released by the brain.

People with low serotonin levels suffer from depression. They are at great risk of committing suicide and may engage in impulsive behavior leading to acts of criminality.

High levels of fish oil (Omega 3 fatty acids) in the blood resulting from eating more fish lead to high levels of serotonin.

Women in general tend to have lower serotonin levels than men, thus, they are more prone to depression. Note: The serotonin level drops some more during the menstrual cycle.

- The best diet of all is to regulate carbohydrate intake. You need to eat the right kind of carbohydrates like high fiber rice (brown, red, wild); starchy vegetables/fruits (broccoli, squash, cabbage, cauliflower), citrus fruits; beans; peaches, kiwi, high-fiber breads (rye, wheat).

Stay away from white flour-based food like cakes, breads, candy, pasta, potatoes.

- Emotional awareness can lead to better management of your feelings. This is according to Dr. Gary Zukav, author of "The Heart of the Soul." By being conscious of your every feeling/mood, you can be in control of your own emotions—and not allow emotions to control you.

Be vigilant. Understand the triggers that make you upset, angry and hurt. Knowing your triggers is a good start.

- An affirmation a day creates joy. Make your own affirmation each day depending on your goal. It can range from health to wealth, love to laughter. Whatever it is, the more personal, the more effective and meaningful.

Today, try to embellish this affirmation: "The Angel of Happiness is my best friend." Love and light!

Reference: "Your Miracle Brain," by Jean Carper; "The Wrinkle Cure," by Nicholas Perricone, MD

## Two teas make new weight . . .

From page C1

go overboard with their eating when taking the capsules. He said it was formulated to give people a healthier life, and not to let them binge when they wanted. Besides, he said, if people continued to overeat, Reduce Fat Fast would not work at all.

"If we want to lose weight we have to be careful about what we eat," he said.

A book called the Jorge Hané Meal Plan, a 14-day program based on 1,800-calorie per day diet, and the Jorge Hané Exercise Plan are also available. As with any new program, people should consult their doctors first before following the book or using the product, he said.

If a doctor thought it was not appropriate for someone to follow the weight-loss program, Hané said s/he could return the product(s).

### Not for everyone

Depending on one's metabolism, Hané said, weight loss could range from three to eight kilos a month. He also said some people did not lose weight on the first month and only began to see results on the fifth or sixth week. And, for some people, the product did not work at all.

"Each body reacts differently. The fact is my formula works for 78 percent of the people. Most people will lose weight. If everyone loses weight with my product then I'll be the richest man in the world," he said.

Hané said he personally used Reduce Fat Fast, especially when traveling. His wife, Miss Argentina '91 and model Florencia K, said she also took the capsules when traveling, when the need to experience new cuisine was hard to resist.

"I belong to an industry where I have to be 'perfect.' Last time I used the product I lost 2.5 kilos—that is a lot for me. At home I eat normally. I don't need the capsules. But since I travel a lot with the work I do, I need to [maintain] my weight the entire time for a shoot, for example," she said.

Hané said his company used the highest tea quality, and he personally supervised production—from the planting of the tea in India right to the production of capsules.

E-mail the author at [ajambora@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:ajambora@inquirer.com.ph)

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SIGALIT Djemal



## In the Pink of health

A new group provides financial assistance for the treatment of women with breast cancer

Text by Rowena C. Burgos  
Photos by Rudy Esperas

WHEN LISA DE LA CRUZ, 38, mother of two kids, felt a lump in her breast in March, she rushed to an ob-gyn who advised her to undergo an ultrasound. The examination yielded negative.

Still bothered by her breast lump, de la Cruz sought the help of a breast surgeon who told her that there was nothing to worry about. She was told that there was no need for an operation since the lump would disappear when she would have her monthly period.

The doctor then advised her to have an ultrasound again after six months. But de la Cruz could not wait that long.

So de la Cruz went to another breast surgeon who was astounded by her condition. She was diagnosed with stage two breast cancer.

The doctor complained that the cancer could have been checked had she gone to the doctor earlier. But he also assured her that the condition was still treatable.

De la Cruz was told she was among breast cancer survivors. "I'm also thankful that I've been blessed with a good husband. This is why I have to win this battle for the sake of my family," she said.

## Acceptance

On the other hand, Norma Mojica, 57, mother of three, was diagnosed with stage one breast cancer in May. She had to undergo mastectomy for her nipple was already eaten by cancer.

She cried when she learned about her condition. But she said she quickly accepted the reality of her condition "with God's help and the support of my family."

But that was not the end of her problem. She still had to go through six cycles of chemotherapy every 21 days. The treatment plus the medicines she had to take cost P14,000 per hospital visit. Add to these the laboratory and ultrasound expenses. Her operation depleted her husband Atanacio's retirement fund and their savings.

De la Cruz also experienced the same dilemma. She said that she only relies on the salary of her husband Joey, who's into sales.

Through the help of Julius German, a medical representative the two women met on different occasions, Mojica and de la Cruz were introduced to the Pink for Life, which now subsidizes more than 60 percent of their expenses on medicines. So if one of them used to spend P4,000 on medicines alone, she now only pays P1,200.

## Pink for Life

A brainchild of Irene Martel-Francisco, managing director of Style Media Inc. which publishes Philippine Taler, Pink for Life was organized in March with the goal of raising P3 million for the treatment of indigent breast cancer victims. Instead, its initial fundraiser recently held at Makati Shangri-La earned P4,188,250.

Together with friends Dr. Diana Cua-Balcells and Sigalit Djemal, Francisco also invited Mons Tantoco, Joy Wassmer, Dr. Vicki Belo, Mario Katigbak and Anton San Diego to be part of the Pink for Life committee.

"We intend to help a great number

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## Walk to feed a child

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Fighthunger.com is a web site that campaigns against child hunger by providing the latest information on the problem. The site also provides information on the different ways interested parties can help in this global campaign.

Every year, the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) with TNT Express, the world's leading business-to-business express delivery company, as well as other partners and sponsors, spread one important message:

Child hunger has no place in this world and, collectively, even ordinary citizens can help put an end to it.

The message is carried in a campaign called Walk the World.

Fight Hunger: Walk the World is a worldwide demonstration where people from all over the globe walk through a 24-hour period, in each of the planet's time zones.

It aims to end child hunger in every nation by 2015, an initiative in line with the first UN Millennium Development Goal: "To reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by year 2015."

The event allows local companies and private individuals to make contributions. Funds raised go to projects that assist hungry

children, like the WFP's global School Feeding Program.

In July, TNT Express Philippines held its very own Walk the World at the SM Mall of Asia on Roxas Boulevard. The event coincided with the observance of Nutrition Awareness Month. UN WFP country director and representative Valerie Guarnieri attended.

Also present were Alghassim Wuire, UN WFP deputy country director; Jose Luis Romero-Salas, TNT Express Worldwide Philippines, Inc. president and general manager; Annette Antolin, TNT Express Worldwide Philippines Inc. vice president and head organizer of the Manila Walk; as well as hundreds of TNT employees, their families, and others.

Guarnieri stressed the importance of the campaign. "Raising awareness for children to have enough food, to make them educated and useful citizens is a good way to promote country development."

Filipino music artists, namely Paolo Santos, Barbie Almalbis, Top Suzarra, Rockstuddy, Raymond



EVERYONE can help end child hunger.

Lauchengco, and Allona gave a free concert after the walk.

Participating corporations were SM Mall Of Asia, Universal Robina Corporation, Coca-Cola, BPI Foundation, Dole Asia & Microdata. Others who supported the campaign were AJA Registrars, Inc., MEDSERV, MAPFRE Insular Insurance Corp., GH Resources and Training Services Inc., R. Brothers Security Agency, Express Copyshop & Gen. Mdse., MACROVISION Consultancy, Frontier Car Care Center, CITIFINANCIAL, POLYGON Manpower Resources, RYMA Ware Trading & Services Co., TMW-ECCF, Bentalls Motorcycle Center, Inc., Pandaman Philippines, Inc., JAMA Fashion, Lito Motors, Inc., Ms. Edit Yambao, WILLA Forwarding, JRS Business Corporation, Morse Hydraulics System Corporation and JRJUT MKTG



MANY children go to sleep hungry.

## Simple but effective health checklist

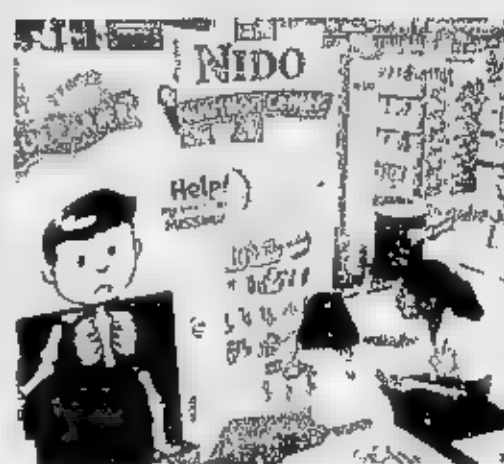
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FOOD scientist and professor Dr. Bruce German commends Filipino nutritionist-dietitians for devising a simple checklist to assess good health and nutrition among children.

German, a senior scientific advisor at the Nestle Research Center in Switzerland, said he had not "seen a more powerful yet simple and practical educational tool in supporting good nutrition, especially among children, than the 10 Signs of Good Nutrition."

The 10 signs, conceptualized and developed by the Nutritionist-Dietitians' Association of the Philippines Foundation (NDAPF), are right weight for height, good muscle development, good posture, clear skin, shiny hair, clear eyes, alert and cheerful, sleeps soundly, regular bowel movement, and good appetite.

German said it was "an excellent and inspiring idea." He said the 10 Signs of Good Nutrition was a very successful and impressive way of looking at good nutrition.

With the guideposts, Filipino mothers will know they have a key role in making sure their children got all the necessary nu-



trients to achieve the 10 signs. They can guide their children in making the right food choices, particularly in ensuring they drink three servings of milk everyday.

Nestle's Nido Fortified is an active supporter of the 10 Signs of Good Nutrition, making it part of its campaign in promoting good health among children. German said Nido Fortified and the NDAPF made it easier for mothers to live up to the challenge of ensuring the good health of their children.

## Post-surgery care needs special training

ANYONE WHO HAS HAD OPEN HEART surgery will agree that a critical phase after the operation is recovery under the care of an "intensivist."

Making recuperation even more difficult is if the patient needs to be monitored for complications and has to be brought to the Coronary Care Unit or CCU.

"I am the first doctor a patient sees after a grueling open heart surgery," says Dr. Nancy Borja-Chuo, section chief of St. Luke's Medical Center's Cardiovascular Recovery Room (7230301 loc. 5610 or 5432).

Chio, who trained at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation's coronary intensive care unit, heart failure and transplant intensive care unit and cardiothoracic intensive care unit, finds the job extremely challenging.

It is standard operational procedure in St. Luke's to have an intensivist, an expert in intensive care, present once the patient is wheeled into the recovery room.

The intensivist monitors the hemodynamics of patients including heart rate, blood pressure, pulmonary artery pressure, central venous pressure and fluid balance.

The level of consciousness of patients is strictly monitored. On the average, and depending on age, a patient wakes up four to

six hours after the operation. If the patient does not wake up after the expected time, the intensivist and staff would immediately look for reasons why.

The Coronary ICU provides speedy and quality intervention. An intensivist like Chio talks to patients a day before surgery to make sure they get all information needed with regard to speedy recovery.

Risk factors and the possibility of developing complications after surgery are assessed. Critically ill patients, especially chronic smokers, might have pulmonary complications while those suffering from diabetes can have kidney problems.

Before surgery, Chio tells the patient what to expect upon waking up. Though it is normal for patients to be attached to machines after surgery, the medical team would rather that he/she relies less on those equipment. The patient is also asked to practice deep breathing.

"Once the breathing tube is removed, I tell the patient to clear his throat, cough and take slow, deep breaths," says Chio who also briefs families on the progress of patients.

A St. Luke's pediatric intensivist attends to the needs of children who need open heart surgery.

## Seminars on breast cancer awareness

THE PHILIPPINE WACOAL Corporation and the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care Inc. (PFBCI) maintain its commitment to provide substantial knowledge and insight about breast cancer awareness for all ages and gender.

The "Keep Abreast" campaign ongoing this month is the third partnership for Wacoal and PFBCI on their advocacy for early diagnosis, prevention and treatment of breast cancer. Public seminars

are held at the Ateneo de Manila Professional Schools in Rockwell Center, Makati City on Oct. 20 and 27 (Saturdays). Admission is free and open to the public. Limited seats are available and reservations should be made through Keep Abreast Hotline: 4978196, PFBCI Hotline: 9273492 or Wacoal Customer Service Hotline: 8841517. Inquiries can also be sent to customerservice@wacoal.ph.

The half-day public seminars include updated lectures by Dr. Cristina Santos, co-founder and president of PFBCI, a video docu-

mentary on the hope and survival of breast cancer patients and an open forum with expert professionals on breast cancer. The organizers provide video CD and flyers for free to organizations who are interested. The seminars offer free clinical breast exam for participants throughout the event.

Breast cancer can happen to anyone, young and old, both men and women. The road to diagnosis, prevention and treatment of this dreaded disease opens new heights of awareness, knowledge and inspiration.



PINK for Life committee: (standing, from left) Mons Tantoco, Sigalit Djemal, Joy Wassmer and Mario Kavigbak; (seated, from left) Dr. Diana Cua-Balcells, Irene Martel-Francisco and Dr. Vicki Belo

## In the Pink of health

From page D1

of patients, but with our limited resources, we decided to concentrate on those afflicted with stages one and two breast cancer because they are the most treatable," Francisco said.

In 2005 alone, the number of breast cancer victims worldwide was estimated at over 1.2 million. The number of deaths was placed at 502,000, according to the World Health Organization. In the Philippines, it was around 14,000 cases and 6,000 deaths in the same year, according to the Philippine Cancer Society.

### Partners

Pink for Life has chosen Bosom Buddies, Inc. as the coordinating organization to distribute the medicines to 80 patients the group is currently helping. It also partners with pharmaceutical companies Biomedis and Dabur, which provide the medicines.

Pink for Life also works hand in hand with medical representatives who locate breast cancer patients in hospitals in Metro Manila.

Women with stage one or stage two breast cancer like de la Cruz and Mojica who want to avail of the Pink for Life program can call Bosom Buddies, Inc. at 8100330.

"One only has to present a pathology re-

port and prescription from her chemo doctor," said Dr. Diana Cua-Balcells (tel. 8100810), a breast surgeon at Makati Medical Center and Asia Hospital.

Women who reach the age of 20 should begin breast self-exams, Balcells advises. "You should have a clinical breast exam by a health professional every three years until you're 40. After age 40, schedule a clinical breast exam and a mammogram every year," she says. "If you have any questions about how your breasts look or feel, don't hesitate to ask your doctor about them."

"We're hoping to raise more money in order to help those in the provinces. It's not just a one-shot deal. It's a dream come true for us to be able to help. If we have the resources to help women and make a tangible difference in their lives, that's enough motivation for us to go on," Francisco said.

Those who want to help the Pink for Life beneficiaries can send donations to the Philippine Tatler office (tel. 8140771; e-mail irene@philtatler.com) at Unit 11-A, 11th floor, Manila Bank Building, 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Or deposit donations to the Bank of the Philippine Islands savings account no. 4943047524. If you want to get an official receipt, fax your deposit slip to Philippine Tatler at 8120790.

## A Cup of Health Facts

You probably know by now that coffee is a rich source of antioxidants. You see, antioxidants are nature's way of cleaning your system. They prevent oxidation of molecules (just like how iron rusts or apples turn brown), which in turn produce free radicals. Free radicals are bad molecules. Be glad antioxidants are here to neutralize them and help shield our body from their harmful effects. In fact, a cup of coffee has more antioxidants than red wine, green tea, and cocoa. Make sure you include it in your daily diet. Enjoy coffee and enjoy a healthier life!



Look at coffee in a different way

NESTLE





# Lifestyle approach to weight loss

By Mitch Felipe  
Contributor

**W**RIGHT LOSS HAS BECOME a never-ending quest for many people.

If weight-loss gimmicks and fads are really effective, how can we explain the increasing trend of overweight and obesity all over the world?

The adoption of quick-fix strategies, a common practice among Filipinos trying to lose weight, is influenced by advertising, testimonial from a friend who lost weight, or the wrong motivation to get results as quickly as possible.

These unhealthy approaches might lead to short-term weight loss, medical side effects, decrease in metabolism and psychological disturbances.

The safest and most realistic rate of weight loss is 0.5 to 1 pound per week or 20-30 lb/year. Rate would also depend on a person's readiness, genes, environment, lifestyle and degree of motivation.

There should be an allowance to maintenance periods like vacations and holidays, celebrations and rest

periods during the year.

## Easy and convenient

The lifestyle approach to weight loss is the easiest and most convenient way for a person to experience a successful and long-term weight loss. It is based on a person's way of living and preferences.

I have listed weight-loss principles based on a lifestyle approach that answers the most common weight-loss mistakes someone might commit. These principles are inspired by the experiences of successful people that I know who lost and maintained their weight.

This approach is all about moderation, consistency, freedom, overall results, satisfaction and fun.

Freedom in discovering your own healthy diet is more effective long-term than following a fad diet.

Following a fad diet tried by your friend who lost 20 lb in one month by having only soup might have unfavorable effects on your body, health, moods and thinking.

Your inability to comply due to the unavailability of recommended diet foods might discourage you from persevering in your weight-

loss efforts.

## Eat what you like

Make your own healthy diet based on the recommended nutritional guidelines, your taste and the availability of the food.

You do not need to insist on eating oatmeal for breakfast if you would love to eat bread with your favorite low-fat spread. You do not have to buy salad for lunch and dinner if you can cook *chopsuey* at home.

You just have to consider better food alternatives and be watchful of the amount and quality.

Eating carbohydrates to burn more calories and lose fat produces a better-quality weight loss than lessening carbohydrates to lose weight fast.

Eliminating rice from the diet is a common weight-loss mistake of those who want to see visible results in less than a week.

If you reduce rice, pasta or bread from your diet, you would surely lack the energy to exercise to burn more calories.

I have also observed that those who lessen their carbs consume more high-calorie sweets. They usually experience weight gain and weight fluctuations.

The best weight-loss strategy is to eat a balanced meal to increase energy and stamina. Lean body mass is spared and fat is lost if you consume a healthy diet.

Satisfying your hunger and taste rather than depriving yourself of calories makes you lose weight more consistently.

Totally eliminating sweets, fats and fast foods from the diet causes deprivation. There is strong evidence to suggest that food deprivation produces a tendency to overeat when food becomes available.

Also, extreme dieting can restrict your intake of essential nutrients. Initial weight losses are caused by loss of water and lean mass instead of body fat. Water is rapidly regained when you begin eating normally again.

## Listen to your body

Pay attention to your body and eat when you are hungry. Take out unnecessary calories from daily intake. However, if you drastically deprive yourself of your favorite foods, it will surely backfire.

If you love to eat sweets and usually consume five slices of cake every

week while having coffee every afternoon, try to reduce it every week. Or you can find a healthier substitute that will indulge your sweet tooth like fruits or a peanut-butter sandwich.

Eating more often during the day, instead of skipping meals, prevents you from overeating.

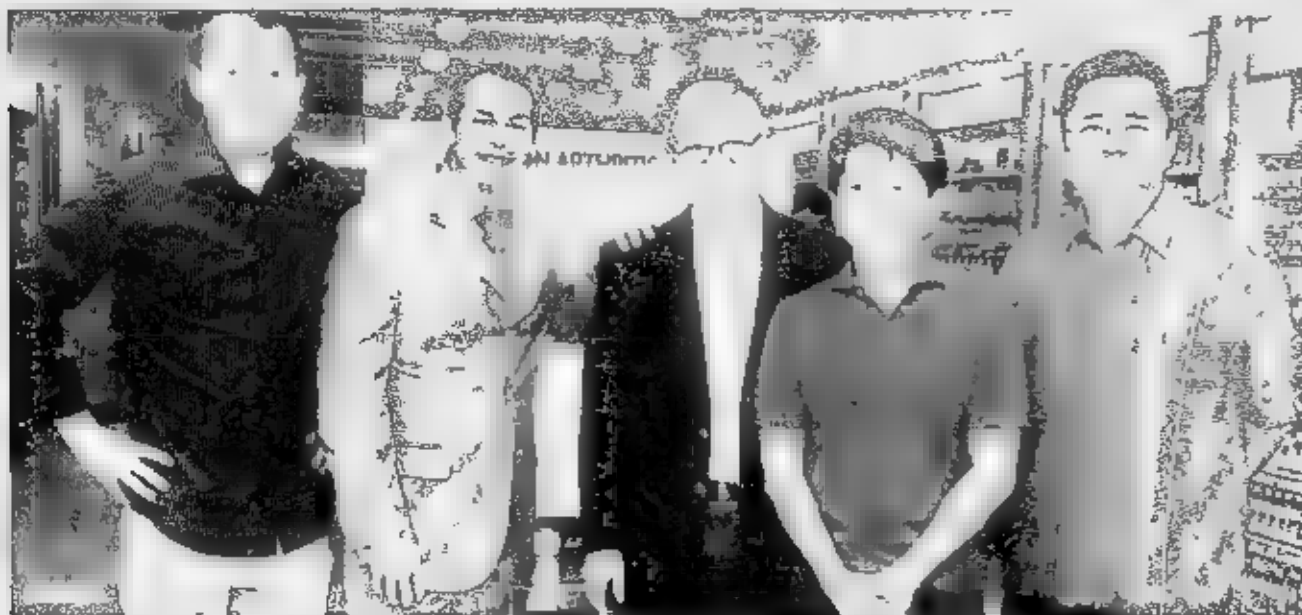
It is common for people to miss a meal, usually breakfast, or not to eat after 6 p.m. to lose weight. Instead of reducing the calories, you are more likely to crave for something late at night.

Usually high-calorie foods like junk foods or sweets are munched late at night, especially while you watch your favorite television show.

Practice eating small meals frequently to prevent overeating and unnecessary snacking at the end of the day. It is not when we eat that causes weight gain, but how much and what we consume during the day.

It does not matter if we eat after 6 p.m. We have different schedules and sleep at different hours. Eat your last meal for the day three hours before you sleep.

E-mail the author at [mitchfelipe@gmail.com](mailto:mitchfelipe@gmail.com)



AT HEALTHY Options' opening: Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (center), Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista (second from right), Healthy Options' Romy Sia and Christian Tan (right), and Keith Michael Didion of Soglar

## Store chain inaugurates new branch

HEALTHY OPTIONS, THE ALL-natural products store chain, inaugurated recently its branch at Trinoma.

Guests were welcomed by Romy Sia, Healthy Options managing director, and president Christian Tan.

Among those who attended were architect and design consultant Wilfrid "Nicky" Magcase and special guest Keith Michael Didion, vice president for International Coordination and Development of Soglar.

Magcase conceptualizes the distinct look of the different branches of Healthy Options. Other Healthy Options

([www.healthyoptions.com.ph](http://www.healthyoptions.com.ph)) stores are at 1/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L, Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L, Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower ground floor, SM City, North Edsa; 2/L, SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; 2/L, SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga, SM Sta. Rosa; SM Mall of Asia, SM Clark, Bonifacio High Street at The Fort, SM City Davao; and Rockwell in Makati.

Another branch will open in SM City Cebu.

INTERIOR of Healthy Options Bonifacio High Street branch



TRINOMA branch features fresh and light palette of colors.



## Propolis and honey in new soap

HD PROPOLIS FACIAL SOAP COMBINES two of nature's best ingredients—propolis and honey. This unique formula of natural ingredients with their powerful antibacterial, antimicrobial, anti-oxidative and moisturizing properties cleanse, protect, nourish and rejuvenate the skin naturally.

There are several benefits in using HD Propolis Facial Soap:

**Cleanses**—Gently yet effectively removes impurities and dirt from the skin and pores, leaving skin clean and smooth.

**Protects**—The antibacterial property of propolis and honey provides a layer of protection against bacteria and fungus, keeping the skin fresh and bacteria-free for a longer period of time. Helps improve healing of pimples and infection. Also reduces inflammation.

**Nourishes**—Honey is well-known to moisturize and nourish skin, leaving skin feeling soft and smooth.

**Rejuvenates**—Propolis contains



flavonoids (powerful antioxidants) that help to rejuvenate skin and repair damage caused by air, environment and pollution. Honey helps stimulate the growth of new skin cells to heal blemishes and scars.

High-Desert products are BFAD and Halal approved. HDI Network is located at 3/F, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City (4359999, [www.hdinetwork.com.ph](http://www.hdinetwork.com.ph))

## Clinic espouses early dental child care

A CHILD, NO MATTER HOW YOUNG, can have a perfect, winning smile.

So it is important regular dental visits should start from the age of 2.

The Winning Smiles Dental Clinic in Makati City offers a wide range of dental treatments and services while providing a highly personalized level of care, especially for young patients.

Regular visits will allow the dentist to monitor problems and take care of them before they become more serious.

The clinic stresses preventive measures, especially for children already in mixed dentition stage or those with both milk and permanent teeth.

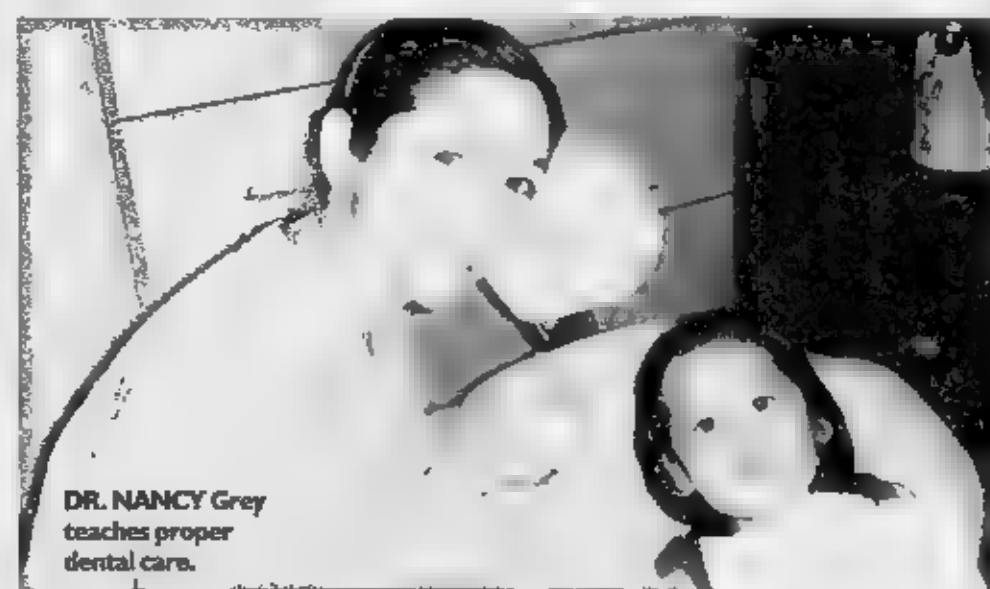
Bad oral habits may start at a young

age causing significant damage to teeth and gums.

These bad habits include sucking on thumb and other fingers, mouth breathing and reverse swallowing.

Pre-orthodontic treatment is recommended when certain symptoms appear like early or late loss of baby teeth, difficulty in chewing or biting, jaws that shift or make sounds, biting the cheek or roof of the mouth and jaws, and teeth that are out of proportion to the rest of the face.

The Winning Smiles Dental Clinic is at Suite 10, lower ground floor, Cityland III, VA Rufino St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 8928189; visit [winningrules.rxpiny.com](http://winningrules.rxpiny.com).



DR. NANCY Grey teaches proper dental care.



# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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## Help for foreign filmmakers in RP

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN BOLLYWOOD FILM-makers come here this year to make movies, they will be as-

sisted by a new government body tasked to hook them up with relevant agencies and service providers.

HELP/E3



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## Aga Muhlach's newfound passion

WHEN AGA MUHLACH'S HEART IS in it, the sky's the limit! Or in the case of his new passion for wakeboarding, the water has no bounds.

Celebs like Anne Curtis, Bianca King, Marc Nelson, Brad Turvey and even Aga's tres charmant wife Charlene Gonzales-Muhlach are hooked on this extreme sport, too. Four months into it, Aga is already wowing seasoned wakeboarders with his natural athleticism and courage to try out fancy moves. This newfound pas-

### DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



For inquiries, call Ivan at 0920-9073427.

The leaner, buffed Aga has achieved the right balance required in wakeboarding and in everything else in his charmed life. That's living and loving *la vida Aga!*

### Thwarted romance

Sam Milby and Toni Gonzaga started shooting their new film in Gold's Gym-Alabang. Can you imagine Sam being made to look like he weighs 300 lbs?

Toni portrays a trainer helping him

trim down. Now that Toni has Direk Paul Soriano in her life, is there no more chance for her thwarted romance with Sam to blossom anew?

Speaking of Sam, his episode with Angel Locsin in "Maalaala Mo Kaya" will be aired on Oct. 19.

### Monster moms

• Guess who this mother of a young chanteuse is. She's unreasonably strict with her daughter. The poor girl is not

AGA MUHLACH/E4



**ENERGY**

Jericho Rosales during the press conference for his concert at the Music Museum.

ROMY HOMILLADA

## Echo sings

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHEN DRAMATIC ACTOR JERICHO Rosales broached the idea of singing with a rock band to his talent manager, the suggestion was met with skepticism.

"Mag-acting ka na lang," I was told. I finally convinced Ma'am Angeli (Valenciano of Manila Genesis) that I could sing when I submitted a demo," said Jericho, now the frontman of Jeans, which released its debut

album, "Loose Fit," in September 2006 under EMI Records.

"It's true that I didn't want people to see Echo struggling with a song so, for a full year, I scheduled gigs for him," said Angeli.

On Oct. 18 and 19 at 8 p.m., Jericho and Jeans will perform at the Music Museum in a concert titled "Raw Energy."

The concert will also feature Gary V and son Gabriel. Echo and Gary share directing chores.

ECHO/E1

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	RETRIBUTION 12:30/2:50/5:10/7:30/9:50	NO RESERVATION 12:00/2:55/5:50/8:45	STARDUST 12:00/2:55/5:50/8:45

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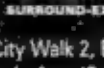
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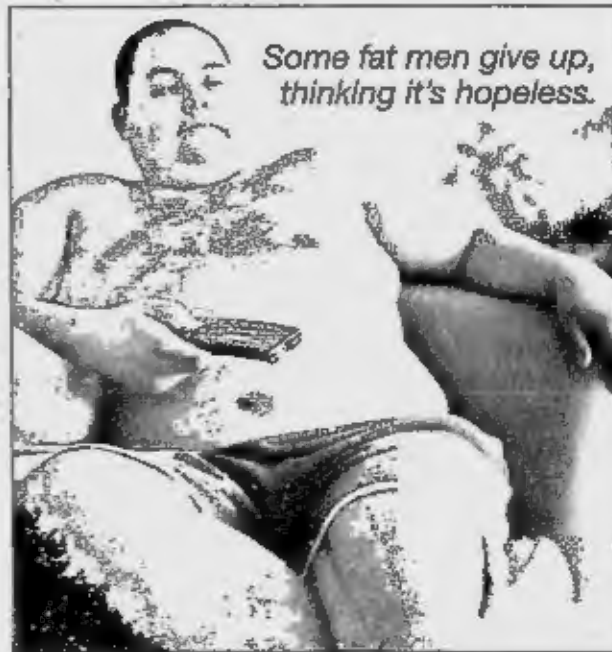
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2 STARDUST 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	7 WEDDING DAZE 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
3 RETRIBUTION 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	8 indieSine: STILL LIFE 1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45
4 NO RESERVATIONS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	9 ROGUE ASSASSIN 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 KUNG FU FIGHTER 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00



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3 STARDUST 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
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2 STARDUST 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00	6 RETRIBUTION 12:05 2:15 4:25 6:30 9:00
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05	7 RESIDENT EVIL 3 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10
4 EVENING 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00	8 KUNG FU FIGHTER 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

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## PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 667-6378

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 STARDUST 12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40	4 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 8:55

## STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90  
(043) 837-0907

## LIPA

Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664  
P90 (043) 312-5870

1 STARDUST	1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DECEMBER BOYS	2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

## DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90  
(046) 416-4332

## IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838  
(046) 471-6188

1 DECEMBER BOYS	1 STARDUST
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3	2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3 STARDUST	3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

## ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95  
(045) 892-2348

## TARLAC

1 NO RESERVATIONS	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SIGNOS	3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 SHOOT 'EM UP	

## STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE HOST	5 NO RESERVATIONS
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	6 SHOOT 'EM UP

## BAGOLOD

Ticket Price: P70  
(034) 441-0459

## ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50  
(033) 336-9070

1 DAYWATCH	1 DAYWATCH
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 SHOOT 'EM UP
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN	5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM	6 ROGUE ASSASSIN

## DID YOU KNOW...

This week through the years in Hollywood:

- 1951: The sitcom "I Love Lucy," starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, premiered on CBS and ran till mid-1957.
- 1954: Director Cecil B. DeMille started

filming "The Ten Commandments" in Egypt. The movie featured a cast of over 25,000.

- 1972: Michael Jackson had his first solo hit, with "Ben."
- 1976: Ike and Tina Turner split up. AP



SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime  
SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

Leonardo DiCaprio presents

join forces in this environmental campaign

# The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio  
Written and directed by Lella Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

NOW SHOWING AT SM NORTH EDSA

Screening Schedules:  
October 17 (Wednesday) at Mall of Asia  
October 24 (Wednesday) at Megamall  
October 31 (Wednesday) at Manila  
November 7 (Wednesday) at Sta. Mesa

Media Partners:

WROCK 97.0 YES!

The 11th Hour  
It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.

## SM MALL OF ASIA

556-0104

IMAX  
DEEP SEA 3D  
1:00 PM • 2:30 PM • 7:00 PM • 8:30 PM  
T-BEX 3D  
1:00 PM  
MASCAR  
1:00 PM  
Admission Price: P250  
Admission Price: P250  
Admission Price: P200

RESIDENT EVIL  
RETRIBUTION  
STARDUST  
KUNG FU FIGHTER  
WEDDING DAZE  
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
PREMIERE CINEMA  
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
CENTERSTAGE  
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY  
DIRECTOR'S CLUB  
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

## PODIUM

## CINEMA 1

## STARDUST

## CINEMA 2

## RETRIBUTION

For ticket reservations, dial 6338976  
All major credit cards accepted

## SM NORTH EDSA

881-5442

11TH HOUR  
WEDDING DAZE  
NO RESERVATIONS  
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
RESIDENT EVIL  
STARDUST  
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY  
ROGUE ASSASSIN  
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
KUNG FU FIGHTER

## METRO MANILA

## SM MEGACINEMA

633-1901

1 STARDUST  
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY  
3 RESIDENT EVIL  
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
6 STARDUST  
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
8 NO RESERVATIONS  
9 KUNG FU FIGHTER  
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
11 RETRIBUTION  
12 WEDDING DAZE

## SM CITY FAIRVIEW

935-0749

1 ONE PERCENT FULL  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
4 DECEMBER BOYS  
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
6 STARDUST  
7 RESIDENT EVIL  
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY  
10 NO RESERVATIONS  
11 WEDDING DAZE  
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

## SM CITY STA. MESA

716-1416

1 RESIDENT EVIL  
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER  
3 STARDUST  
4 ONE PERCENT FULL  
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
6 NO RESERVATIONS  
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
8 WEDDING DAZE  
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
10 DECEMBER BOYS

## SM CITY SAN LAZARO

788-2488

1 RESIDENT EVIL  
2 RETRIBUTION  
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER  
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
5 STARDUST  
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

## SM SOUTHMALL

808-8888

1 STARDUST  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 ONE PERCENT FULL  
4 RESIDENT EVIL  
5 RETRIBUTION  
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER  
9 WEDDING DAZE

## SM CITY RITIMALL

776-3055

1 STARDUST  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
4 RESIDENT EVIL  
5 SM CITY MANILA  
6 RESIDENT EVIL  
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER  
8 RETRIBUTION  
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
11 STARDUST  
12 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

## SM CITY DASHMARINAS

(046) 422321-04

1 STARDUST  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 RESIDENT EVIL  
4 SKINWALKERS  
5 SM VALENZUELA  
6 RESIDENT EVIL  
7 STARDUST  
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

## SM CITY SUCAT

829-4975

1 STARDUST  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 RESIDENT EVIL  
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

## SM CITY BACOD

(046) 417-3868

1 DAYWATCH  
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
3 STARDUST  
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
5 RESIDENT EVIL  
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
7 ONE PERCENT FULL  
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

## SM CITY CLARK

(045) 625-5844-45

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
2 NO RESERVATIONS  
3 SHOOT 'EM UP  
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

## SM CITY MARLAU

(044) 9332013-17

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
4 DECEMBER BOYS

## LUZON

## SM CITY BANGOR

885-8401-04

1 THE BRAVE ONE  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

## SM CITY BANGOR

(045) 9637681-85

1 SHOOT 'EM UP  
2 NO RESERVATIONS  
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
4 ONE PERCENT FULL  
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

## SM CITY LIPA

(043) 784-0187

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

## SM CITY LUCENA

(042) 7108977-80

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

## SM CITY BAHIO

(074) 8197838-39

1 STARDUST  
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME  
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

## SM SUPERCENTER MOLING

(048) 474-3160

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
2 STARDUST  
3 RESIDENT EVIL  
4 ONE PERCENT FULL

## SM CITY STA. ROSA

(049) 8348811

1 STARDUST  
2 DECEMBER BOYS/SKINWALKERS  
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
4 RESIDENT EVIL

## VISAYAS

## MINDANAO

## SM CITY HONOLULU

(033) 3209422

1 SHOOT 'EM UP  
2 RESERVED  
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY  
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
5 DAYWATCH  
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN  
7 RESERVED

## SM CITY CAGAYAN

(088) 859-2884

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY  
2 DAYWATCH  
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

## SM CITY CEBU

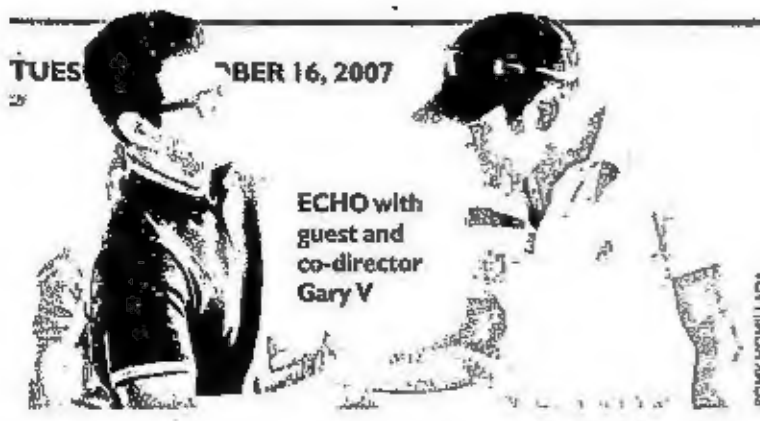
(032) 231-3876

1 NO RESERVATIONS  
2 SKINWALKERS  
3 STARDUST  
4 HAIRSPRAY  
5 SINKING OF JAPAN  
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU  
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
8 RESIDENT EVIL  
9 SM CITY BAGOLOD  
10 (034) 708 1010  
11 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
12 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY  
13 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME  
14 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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\*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA





ECHO with guest and co-director Gary V

Echo...

From page E1

When did you realize you wanted to sing?

At 12, when I started writing poetry. I would steal my brother's love letters and make songs out of them. I realized I was hooked on music when I heard Francis Magalona's "Mga Kababayan" and Gary's "Di Bale Na Lang."

Gary, do you think Jericho will be the next Mr. Pure Energy?

To be perfectly honest, I don't think there will be another Mr. Pure Energy in the same way that there will never be another Jericho Rosales or Sarah Geronimo or Martin Nievera.

What can we expect from this show?

Gary: All the elements that make Echo who he is.

Jericho: I want to do everything, but I can sing only 15 to 17 songs. I will definitely do a TV and movie theme medley. And I hope people appreciate songs I composed.

ENTERTAINMENT

Help for foreign filmmakers in RP

From page E1

The Export Services Group, chaired by Digna Santiago, is designed as a one-stop-shop for foreign producers planning to shoot in the Philippines. The ESG is under the Film Development Council of the Philippines, chaired by Jacky Arienza.

Highlander: The Source movie advertisement with chapter breakdowns and a large image of Adrian Paul.

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA! \$24,168,865 HIGHEST 3-DAY WEEKEND GROSS (Sept. 21-23)

Resident Evil: Extinction movie advertisement featuring Milla Jovovich.

Table with movie listings for various theaters including Glorietta, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Market! Market!, and Trinoma.

At the Malls section listing events at Glorietta, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Market! Market!, and Ayala Museum.

Harsh Times movie advertisement featuring Christian Bale, Freddie Rodriguez, and Eva Longoria.

Urban Beats Superbands at Glorietta advertisement with a list of bands and dates.



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**Masagana CINEMA** 100 Rm. Shangri-La Plaza, U.S.A. / 100 Rm. Shangri-La Plaza, U.S.A. / 100 Rm. Shangri-La Plaza, U.S.A.  
(Phony) tel: 033-3290 / 033-3274

**PREMIERE**

**WEDDING DAZE**  
**RESIDENT EVIL 3**

**Jade Cinema**  
(Los Angeles City) Tel (405) 887.5003 to 03

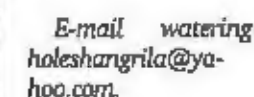
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**2ND WEEK**

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